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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

TEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Michigan State Grange

— OF —

Patrons of Husbandry,

HELD IN

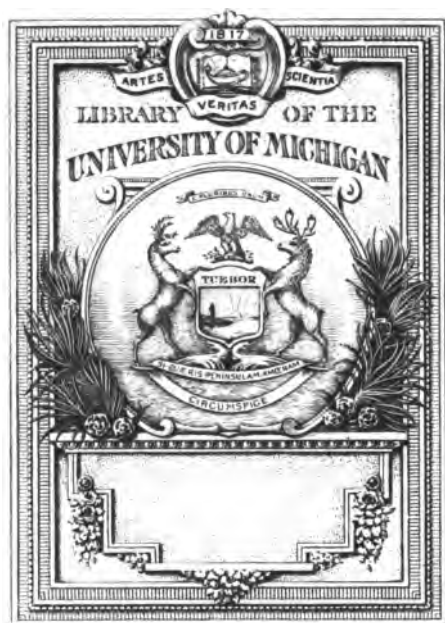
Representative Hall, Lansing, Michigan,

December 11, 12, 13 and 14, 1888.

KALAMAZOO:

KALAMAZOO PUBLISHING CO., PRINTERS AND BINDERS.

1888.



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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

XTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Michigan State Grange

— OF —

Patrons of Husbandry,

HELD IN

Representative Hall, Lansing, Michigan,

December 11, 12, 13 and 14, 1888.

KALAMAZOO:

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Officers of the Michigan State Grange

FOR 1889.

Master—THOS. MARS, Berrien Centre.

Overseer—PERRY MAYO, Battle Creek.

X *Lecturer*—JASON WOODMAN, Paw Paw.

Steward—A. P. GRAY, Grand Traverse.

Assistant Steward—A. E. GREEN, Walled Lake.

Chaplain—MRS. PERRY MAYO, Battle Creek.

Treasurer—E. A. STRONG, Vicksburg.

Secretary—J. T. COBB, Schoolcraft.

Gate Keeper—GEO. CARLISLE, Kalkaska.

Ceres—MRS. THOS. MARS, Berrien Centre.

Pomona—MRS. JNO. PASSMORE, Flushing.

Flora—MRS. AMANDA GUNNISON, North Lansing.

Lady Assistant Steward—MRS. ROBERT WILEY, Cassopolis.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Chairman—J. G. RAMSDELL, Traverse City.

Dir. " H. D. PLATT, Ypsilanti. X

GEO. B. HORTON, Fruit Ridge. X

F. W. REDFERN, Maple Rapids. X

~~A. S. PARTRIDGE, Flushing.~~ X

~~E. S. HART, Otsego.~~

J. C. GOULD, Paw Paw. X

THOS. MARS, }
J. T. COBB, } *ex-officio.*

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST DAY.

REPRESENTATIVE HALL, LANSING, }
December 11, 1888.

The sixteenth annual session of the Michigan State Grange opened in form at 10 o'clock A. M., with the Worthy Master, Thomas Mars, in the chair.

On roll call the following were found present:

Master, Thomas Mars; Lecturer, Jason Woodman; Steward, William Shaffer; Assistant Steward, A. E. Green; Secretary, J. T. Cobb; Gate Keeper, J. C. Gould; Pomona, Mrs. Perry Mayo; Flora, Mrs. J. C. Gould; Lady Assistant Steward, Mrs. A. E. Green.

The Worthy Master filled the vacant chairs by appointment as follows: Brother Perry Mayo, Overseer; Sister O. M. Sykes, Chaplain, and Sister W. F. Adams, Ceres.

The following Committee on Credentials was appointed by the Worthy Master: Brothers Jason Woodman, O. M. Sykes, Wm. Burrus, and Sisters Martin C. Brest and Walter C. Timms.

On motion of Brother Platt the order of business of the last session was adopted as follows:

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Opening Grange in form.
2. Reading journal of previous day's session.
3. Presentation of petitions and memorials.
4. Reports of officers of the State Grange.
5. Report of the Executive Committee.
6. Reports of standing committees.
7. Reports of special committees.

8. Motions and resolutions.
9. Special order of the day.
10. Unfinished business.
11. Closing in form.

The Committee on Credentials made the following report:

Worthy Master.

Your Committee on Credentials respectfully submit the following report:

ALLEGAN—Jos. H. Dunwell and wife, Martin C. Brest and wife, J. L. Austin and wife.

ANTRIM—Jos. G. Authorson and wife.

BARRY—Gilbert Walker and wife, C. W. Taylor and wife.

BERRIEN—Asa Sherwood and wife, Wm. Burrus and wife.

BRANCH—William Lott and wife.

CALHOUN—Homer Case and wife.

CASS—B. J. Wiley and wife.

CLINTON—J. W. Ennest and wife, L. L. Plowman and wife.

EATON—Jos. Shaw and wife, Louis Lemmon and wife.

GENESEE—John Passmore and wife.

GRAND TRAVERSE—A. P. Gray and wife.

GRATIOT—B. D. Ackmoody and wife.

HILLSDALE—Jas. Cousins and wife, Thos. E. Cooney and wife, Earl H. Dresser and wife.

HURON—Jos. Donaldson, Jas. Haley.

INGHAM—Jas. Webb and wife, Elliott H. Angell and wife.

IONIA—Dr. and Mrs. Willey, D. H. English and wife.

JACKSON—Abel N. Howe.

KALKASKA—Thos. Lancaster and wife.

KALAMAZOO—Malachi Cox and wife.

KENT—Melvin Willetts and wife, Lewis H. Wilmarth and wife, E. V. E. Pratt and wife, Loren Day and wife.

LAPEER—Nathan Stover and wife.

LENAWEE—W. W. Foster and wife, E. A. Taylor and wife.

LIVINGSTON—Gilbert Bradley and wife.

MACOMB—Thos. Brabb and wife.

MANISTEE—John F. Lyke and wife.

MECOSTA—Jos. Smith and wife.

MOTNCALM—Geo. Douglass and wife.

MUSKEGON—J. S. Burton and wife.

NEWAYGO—Jas. Robertson and wife.

OCEANA—Truman Jacobs and wife.

OAKLAND—O. L. Murray and wife, H. Andrews and wife, L. C. Haines and wife.

OTTAWA—Edwin Fellows and wife.

OTSEGO—N. L. Parmeter and wife.

ST. CLAIR—Peter Holly.

ST. JOSEPH—J. C. Dougherty and wife, J. J. Bennett and wife.

SAGINAW—Fred'ck G. Totten and wife.

SANILAC—Elias Stouffer and wife.

SHIAWASSEE—N. K. Potter and wife.

TUSCOLA—W. J. Campbell and wife.

VAN BUREN—W. R. Serrine and wife, O. M. Sykes and wife.
 WASHTENAW—D. D. Cook and wife.
 WAYNE—S. A. Cady and wife.
 WEXFORD—John L. Snethen and wife.

Pomona Granges.

BERRIEN, No. 1—J. J. Murphy and wife.
 OAKLAND, No. 5.—Lorin L. Richmond and wife.
 WASHTENAW, No. 7—J. G. Rook and wife.
 WAYNE, No. 8.—John McPherson and wife.
 HILLSDALE, No. 10—Walter J. Timmes and wife.
 VAN BUREN, No. 13—E. L. Warner and wife.
 INGHAM, No. 14—Robert L. Hewitt.
 LENAWEE, No. 15—P. H. Dowling and wife.
 IONIA, No. 16—Henry J. Hall and wife.
 TRAVERSE, No. 17—E. O. Ladd and wife.
 KENT, No. 18.—Wm. T. Adams and wife.
 WESTERN, No. 19—Melvin S. Smith and wife.
 BRANCH, No. 22—J. D. W. Fisk and wife.
 MONTCALM, No. 24—B. B. Crawford and wife.
 CLINTON, No. 25—Alfred Gunnison and wife.
 BARRY, No. 26—O. Barrett and wife.
 KALAMAZOO, No. 27—Hosea Cox.
 EATON, No. 28—D. W. Reed and wife.
 LAPEER, No. 29—Emery E. Owen and wife.
 TUSCOLA, No. 30—Wm. D. Babcock and wife.
 ALLEGAN, No. 33—A. T. Stark and wife.
 LIVINGSTON, No. 34—A. M. Wells and wife.
 HURON, No. 35—Richard Nugent, Jr., and wife.
 GRATIOT, No. 36—Elbridge Franklin and wife.

JASON WOODMAN,
 O. M. SYKES,
 WM. BURRUS,
 SISTER MARTIN C. BREST.
 SISTER WALTER C. TIMMS.
Committee.

Report received, adopted and committee continued.

The Worthy Master presented the following invitation from Capital Grange:

NORTH LANSING, December 11, 1888.

To the Officers and Members of the Michigan State Grange, Visiting Brothers and Sisters, Greeting:

The members of Capitol Grange No. 540, P. of H., extend to you all a cordial invitation to meet with them on Wednesday evening, Dec. 12th, at 7:30 o'clock P. M., at their hall in North Lansing.

Yours fraternally,
 WM. SHAFFER, *Secretary.*

A motion of Bro. Hewitt to accept unanimously prevailed.

Bro. Burrington moved the Superintendent of Public

Instruction, Prof. Estabrook, be invited to address this body to-morrow at two o'clock.

Motion prevailed.

Regular order of business taken up.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Bro. Warner from the Van Buren County Pomona Grange, presented a petition relating to limiting the length of the session of the Legislature.

Received and referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

By the same, a resolution relating to incorporating cities and villages; also a resolution in relation to the pay of legislators during their absence on individual business.

Received and referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Bro. Murphy, from Berrien Center Grange, presented a resolution asking for the appointment of a committee that shall give personal attention to securing legislative action on any and all measures that may be adopted by this State Grange at this session, requiring State or National legislation.

Received and referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Bro. Ackmoody presented a resolution relating to the exactions of millers.

Received and referred to the Committee on Legislative Action.

By the same, a petition relating to attending caucuses and looking after the farmers' interests.

Received and referred to the Committee on Legislative Action.

Bro. Burten presented a petition relating to consolidating the three degrees into one.

Received and referred to the Committee on Good of the Order.

A Brother from Newago County Grange, presented a resolution relating to trusts.

Received and referred to the Committee on Legislative Action.

Bro. Dougherty from Riverside Grange, presented a resolution relating to monopolies.

Received and referred to the Committee on Legislative Action.

By the same, a resolution relating to taxation.

Received and referred to the same committee.

By the same, a resolution relating to postal banks.

Received and referred to the Committee on Legislative Action.

Bro. Shepherdson from Corey Grange, a resolution relative to our School Laws.

Received and referred to the Committee on Legislative Action.

Bro. J. E. Webb presented a resolution from Granges Nos. 115 and 289, relating to changing the Ritual.

Received and referred to the Committee on Good of the Order.

Bro. Dougherty a resolution relating to the rights of the agriculturists.

Received and referred to the Committee on Legislative Action.

A Brother from Grove Grange, No. 528, a resolution relating to text-books in our schools.

Received and referred to the Committee on Education.

Bro. Fisk from Branch County Pomona Grange, a resolution relating to Farmer's Institutes.

Received and referred to the Committee on Legislative Action.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS OF THE STATE GRANGE.

The Worthy Master read his annual address, which, on motion, was referred to the Committee on Division of Labor.
Officers, Members and Patrons of Michigan:

To-day we are convened in the 16th annual session of the Michigan State Grange, upon fifteen of which I have been in attendance. I have watched with pleasure and profit the receding years, and to-day I am more than ever convinced that this Order is the medium of the greatest good to the greatest number, of any known organization of farmers. I have seen the farmers and farmers' wives taken from their rural homes to the Grange hall and transformed from silent spectators to able writers and debaters, ready to defend with marked ability, the great interest in which we are engaged.

All over this beautiful State we see a visible improvement in their homes and surroundings. The farms show a better state of cultivation, the stock upon the farms is materially improved, and

in every way the farmer is better educated—broader-minded and fast becoming as nature designed, the honored of the land.

One year ago, the helm of the State Grange organization was placed in untried hands, handed down by an able, experienced pilot who had steered the ship through many rough and boisterous seas, always in port on time. No one member felt the change more keenly than myself and you all know that the chances were equal, that the good ship was liable to drift into shoal water, but with the knowledge of the danger, the Order in the State did the wise thing of recommending able deputies to assist and with their kind co-operation, and by the aid of the very able lecturer of the State Grange, we have the pleasure of returning to your hands, the authority with which I was invested, without the loss of a single organization, with seven new and four Granges reinstated. The many kind greetings of members in the various localities where it has been my pleasure to visit, will ever be bright spots in my memory. I cannot feel that my efforts have been crowned with success, but hope that none feel that my efforts were actuated by any other than pure motives for good.

We meet under more favorable auspices than one year ago. Then we felt a depression from drouth all over the state, and a decline in price below the cost of production; to-day we are enjoying the blessings of a fair crop and prices commensurate. We do not feel the necessity of so closely counting the cost of spending a few moments in visiting places of pleasure and profit, and can have a few more dimes to improve our homes and surroundings. Let us be on the alert, seek every possible avenue to better our condition; let us not think that we are the most down-trodden people on the earth, and that every other calling is seeking our destruction. We must educate ourselves in the broadest sense, remembering that no calling in this broad land is equal to ours, and while we seek to better our condition we must not forget the toiling millions in other avenues of life; we own the foundation and control the superstructure if we will.

The Order in our State is in a flourishing condition. Much has been done to extend its interest in every locality where demands were made, but much more might have been done if time and means had been at our disposal. It seems to me that a more systematic lecture system might be devised, and a larger number of the farmers might be reached at a less cost of time and money. The lecture field has been worked the past year principally by the State Lecturer and your Master. Our former able lecturers who stirred the minds of the people with their eloquence and devoted sincerity have retired during the past year to higher stations or home duties, or to watch the sick bed of those near and dear to them. I must say right here that many urgent calls have been made upon me for Sister Mayo, but I was early informed that she was confined to the sick bed of a dear daughter, and while we seriously missed her noble work in the field we knew her kindest wishes were with us and in turn we extend to her and her family our sincerest sympathy.

I trust it will be part of the work of this meeting to devise ways and means to thoroughly work every available field in this State, and when another year is past, every farmer and farmer's wife of good moral character will have united with our Order. It is needless for me to say that the necessity for united effort at this time is greater than ever, for all must be convinced that at no period

in the history of this nation has there existed a time when thorough organization was so important to the welfare of producer and consumer. The Grange, to my mind, is the best and surest medium, and while we have stood the test for twenty-two years no minor organizations can expect to achieve greater results than have the Patrons of Husbandry. We are confronted on every hand by combines and trusts organized for greater profits in business. For instance, the coal barons of the east combine and put up prices and say to the consumers, "You must pay our prices or freeze." This is only one of the many which are combining to thwart the great law of supply and demand. It is another name for robbery, and our law-making power should enact a law that would put them in the same category with masked highwaymen, or be held responsible to the people. Believing, as we do, that the Order of Patrons of Husbandry is seeking the greatest good for the greatest number, and as we represent an interest more potent for good than all others combined, it is proper and right that we should thoroughly organize and demand of the law-making power of this country, fair and equitable protection for the masses. Much has been done in this direction but more remains to be accomplished.

Patrons, in deliberating upon questions to be presented for State and National legislation, select those requiring immediate attention and do not demand consideration of any wild undigested theories. Better concentrate on one well defined purpose and follow it to its final consummation, than demand too much and lose all.

The National Grange closed its twenty-second annual session at Topeka, Kansas, November 22. It was a most harmonious and instructive meeting. All the States were represented except Florida, Louisiana and Arkansas. The reports represented an increase in all the States and in some larger additions than for many years. It is not necessary that I should take your time in reciting the many valuable and important questions there acted upon, all of which will be laid before you soon. There were four amendments to the constitution adopted by the National Grange for ratification or rejection, as follows:

AMENDMENTS.

Amend Article 7 by adding thereto the following: "Provided, That State Granges shall have the power to reduce the fee within their respective jurisdictions to any sum not less than one dollar.

2. Amend Article 1, under the head of District and County Granges, by striking out the words, "not to exceed one in each county," where they occur in the second line of said article.

3. Amend Article 14 by striking out the words, "three-fourths," where they occur in the third line of said article, and insert in lieu thereof the words, "two-thirds."

4. Amend Article 7 by adding thereto the following: "Provided, That the membership fee for the children of the members of the Order, under twenty-one (21) years of age shall be one dollar

The above amendments should be referred to the proper committees, and by them thoroughly considered. There were many good arguments presented in favor of the amendments.

The National Grange was well received by the people of Topeka and the Patrons of Kansas. The capitol building in an unfinished condition was thrown open for our use, and no pains spared for our comfort. The city of Topeka is a thing of beauty—

the streets are broad and beautiful and lighted by electricity, and street railways traverse the city in every direction. The people are enterprising and intellectual in a marked degree. The population of the city is 30,000, and to my astonishment and admiration, not an open saloon in the city; and further, all the attorneys are in the real estate business, and the judges retired to private life. They are a happy and prosperous people.

Brothers and Sisters, it is not my intention in this communication to weary your patience, nor do I wish to assume a dictatorial attitude; but I hope you will bear with me while I present a few more thoughts on questions that seem to me to require your attention at this meeting. *The Visitor* is our organ, and a medium which we can ill afford to lose. It is true the State Grange can maintain it a few years longer; but it should be a source of revenue to the State Grange and not a drain upon its treasury. *The Visitor* ought to have a circulation of at least 25,000, and issued weekly; every family of the Grange ought to take a copy. I am satisfied there is wisdom and enterprise enough in the Order to boom the paper and make it second to none in the State. I trust you will give this matter your serious consideration.

My attention has been called to the necessity of creating a business arm of the Order in Detroit, for the protection or bettering the markets for the products of northeastern Michigan. This matter was referred to a special committee, from whom we expect a report at this meeting. The plaster question has also been referred to the Executive Committee, without satisfactory results.

The Pomona Granges of our State are the mediums of much good, concentrating the wisdom, the talent and social qualities of the Subordinate organizations of the counties, and my observation bears me out in saying, that when well managed no dormancy can exist in their jurisdiction. The contest system has done very much to create renewed energy, and increase the membership of the Order. I recommend its continuance. I trust all these matters will receive careful consideration. I have but few suggestions in relation to our patent laws and their abuses. The question of their amendment has been before us for years, and we have done our whole duty thus far. But our time is not out; we must be vigilant and ready to embrace the first opportunity to defend the people's rights.

We have money in the treasury at our command, and hosts of willing souls at our backs with "millions for defence," but not one cent for tribute.

At the close of the last session of this Grange, there was a special committee appointed to arrange a reading circle, that will report to you its work, and I hope this enterprise will receive your hearty co-operation. I desire to call your attention to the importance of special correspondents in each Subordinate Grange, whose duty it shall be to report to the Master the condition of their respective Granges; also to write short articles for publication in the local papers and *The Visitor*. I find in traveling over the State localities that seem to think the Grange has ceased to exist. We must let the world know that we live, and have a being.

Patrons, in conclusion my observation bears me out in saying that the future of the Order is bright, prejudice is giving away to charity, general education is the prevailing idea of our people. The farmers have finally concluded that if they keep pace with other classes they must be educated, and the Grange is doing a great

work in this direction. Members, you have much to do at this meeting, and but four short days to accomplish the task. Let your work be well done, and your labors will be blessed with a liberal harvest.

THOS. MARS.

On motion, the Grange took a recess until half past one.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Grange called to order by the Worthy Master.

After a song by the choir, Bro. Mayo was called to the chair while the Worthy Master retired to make out a list of standing committees.

During his absence the time was profitably spent in listening to short speeches for the Good of the Order from Brothers and Sisters present.

The Worthy Master resuming the chair, announced the following standing committees:

CREDENTIALS—Jason Woodman, Wm. Burrus, O. M. Sykes, Mrs. W. J. Timms, Mrs. M. C. Brest.

DIVISION OF LABOR—A. T. Stark, Lewis Wilmarth, Mrs. James Cousins, Mrs. M. Cox, Mrs. J. J. Bennett, Mrs. Nathan Stover.

FINANCE—E. O. Ladd, W. W. Foster, Thos. Brabb, Mrs. W. W. Foster, J. S. Burton, Mrs. T. Jacobs, Mrs. Thos. Lancaster, Mrs. Underhill, Mrs. J. J. Murphy.

GOOD OF THE ORDER—Mrs. Elam Warner, J. J. Bennett, Mrs. L. Lemon, Mrs. N. T. Potter, Mrs. E. V. E. Pratt, Bro. Calvert, Mrs. W. R. Serrine.

RESOLUTIONS—E. L. Warner, John T. Lyke, Mrs. Elias Stauffer, Mrs. J. S. Burton, Mrs. Calvert, L. L. Keeney and wife.

CO-OPERATION—A. P. Gray, Joseph Smith, Mrs. S. A. Cady, Mrs. F. G. Totten, Peter Holley, Dr. Willey, Mrs. Loren Day.

TRANSPORTATION—J. D. W. Fisk, Edwin Fellows, O. L. Murray, Truman Jacobs, Joseph Glasson.

BY-LAWS STATE GRANGE—W. R. Serrine, James Webb, Mrs. O. L. Holton, Mrs. W. D. Babcock, Martin C. Brest, Mrs. Asa Sherwood, Mrs. J. J. Murphy.

INSTRUCTIONS TO DELEGATES NATIONAL GRANGE—D. D. Cook, W. J. Campbell, Mrs. C. W. Taylor, Mrs. E. A. Taylor, Gilbert Bradley, Mr. J. Dunwell, O. Barrett.

PUBLICATION—Earl H. Dresser, Thos. Lancaster, O. L. Holton, Mrs. Robert Wiley, Mrs. J. G. Rooke, C. A. Underhill.

POMONA GRANGES—Mrs. W. T. Adams, Mrs. Homer Case, J. W. Ennest, J. J. Murphy, E. V. E. Pratt, Mrs. Wm. Burrus, Mrs. J. Smith, Mrs. A. T. Stark, S. E. Lee.

CLAIMS AND GRIEVANCES—Alfred Gunnison, Mrs. J. W. Ennest, Mrs. W. J. Campbell, Asa Sherwood, C. W. Taylor, Mrs. Jas. Dunwell.

EDUCATION—Robert L. Hewitt, Mrs. O. M. Sykes, W. D. Babcock, Mrs. John Passmore, Mrs. A. P. Gray, Loren Day, E. O. Ladd, W. A. Lott.

MILEAGE AND PER DIEM—Abel N. Howe, John Passmore, B. B. Crawford, J. C. Dougherty, F. G. Totten, E. A. Taylor, Mrs. J. T. Lyke, Mrs. Geo. Douglass, Mrs. P. H. Dowling.

BY-LAWS OF SUBORDINATE GRANGES—M. Cox, Homer Case, Gilbert Walker, J. G. Authorson, Mrs. Joseph Shaw, Mrs. L. L. Plowman, Mrs. O. L. Murray.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS—S. A. Cady, L. L. Plowman, Joseph Shaw, Joseph Donaldson, Mrs. E. H. Dresser, Mrs. T. E. Cooney, Mrs. L. C. Haines, John McPherson, Delos W. Reed.

DORMANT GRANGES—Amanda Gunnison, Louis Lemon, James Cousins, B. D. Ackmoody, Mrs. D. D. Cook, Mrs. D. H. English, Mrs. J. D. W. Fisk.

PATENT RIGHTS—Hiram Andrews, J. G. Rooke, J. L. Snethen, W. J. Timms, Loren L. Richmond, L. C. Haines, Bro. Gibbs, wife.

AGRICULTURE—P. H. Dowling, Hosea Cox, Nathan Stover, Elliot H. Angell, James Haly, Bro. Jos. Glasson, Mrs. H. Andrews, Mrs. E. Fellows, Mrs. N. L. Parmeter.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION—W. T. Adams, D. H. English, N. K. Potter, Elias Stouffer, Thos. Cooney, Bro. A. M. Wells, Bro. J. W. Hall, Elbridge Franklin, Bro. R. Nugent, Mrs. A. M. Wells, Mrs. R. Nugent.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Bro. Redfern presented a resolution relating to Telegraph and Telephone Companies.

Received and referred to the Committee on Legislative Action.

A Brother from Corey Grange, No. 291, presented a resolution relating to our school laws and the election of secretary of the board.

Received and referred to the Committee on Good of the Order.

Bro. Pratt a resolution relating to changing from the school district to the township or unit system.

Received and referred to the Committee on Education.

Bro. Dougherty from Centerville Grange, a resolution relative to the manner of electing president and vice-president of the United States.

Received and referred to the Committee on Legislative Action.

Bro. Stouffer from Fremont County Grange, presented a petition in relation to text-books in our common schools.

Received and referred to Committee on Education.

Bro. Smith a resolution relating to Road Warrants.

Received and referred to the Committee on Good of the Order.

Sister Mayo a resolution relating to County School Examiners..

Received and referred to the Committee on Education.

Bro. Bates from Moline Grange, a resolution in relation to railroad tickets.

Received and referred to the Committee on Legislative Action.

Bro. Joe. Smith a resolution relating to the game laws.

Received and referred to the Committee on Legislative Action.

Bro. Partridge a petition relative to fees to State and National Granges.

Received and referred to the Committee on Instructions to Representatives to National Grange.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS OF THE STATE GRANGE.

Bro. Shaffer, Steward, made his annual report, as follows:
Worthy Master, Brothers and Sisters:

In compliance with the custom of this body, I submit a brief report of the condition of the Grange so far as my observation enables me to do so. My observation is confined chiefly to conversation and consultation with members of the Order of my own and neighboring Granges, and while I cannot report the Grange as booming, yet the order is in a healthy and growing condition. All seem to realize that the Grange is a necessity to the farmers and their families. We feel extremely gratified to report that the younger members are taking an active part in building up and perpetuating our organization. There appears to be a growing interest in Grange work by all.

The education and development of brain power, by farmers and their families, in the discussion of questions which interest them, comparing views, having social and literary exercises, all tend to mutual improvement. It should be our endeavor to plan and assign work to all, wisely and judiciously, and the result will surely be satisfactory. My observation and experience has been, that wherever a close adherence to the ceremonial and parliamentary rules of the order have been followed, there we find a prosperous and lively Grange.

I now wish to call the attention of this body to suggestions which have been made to me by Patrons, in regard to the making and sending out of annual, instead of quarterly reports by secretaries of Subordinate Granges to the secretary of the State Grange. Not a few secretaries seem to think the present system entails too

much labor upon them, and without any recommendation I present this suggestion to this body for their consideration.

In conclusion I would say, that I entertain a strong conviction, if we but do our duty, we shall go onward and ever onward in the good work so well begun.

WM. SHAFFER, *Steward.*

Report received and on motion referred to Committee on Division of Labor.

Bro. Green, Assistant Steward, made report, which on motion was referred to Committee on Division of Labor.

Worthy Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

Another year has passed in the work of our Order since we last convened in this hall—a year full of changes, many of them pleasant and full of good fruits to the Order and to the members thereof, others very sad and discouraging. Many of our sisters and brothers have closed their labors here and passed on to the great Grange above. Very few, perhaps none of us thought, one year ago, that we should receive the news of the death of him who presided over the meeting of the National Grange here in this hall; he who, being a Democrat, had a heart so large and kind that he could look away north and rejoice in the election of a farmer governor, although that farmer was a Republican. Then again, from our *Grange Visitor* we are constantly receiving the news of the death of some sister or brother whom we have met in our sessions here in this hall in years past. How sad the thought that we shall never meet them again in our Grange work! This would be more sad were it not for the fact that others of a younger class are being admitted to the Order and taking the place of those who have passed on.

In regard to the condition of the Order in the east part of the state (with perhaps an exception or two) I can say that the prospects during the past year have been very encouraging to the old members of the Order. In every Grange that I have heard from, which has adopted the contest plan, there has been a large increase in membership by the re-instating of old members and the admission of new ones, and a general reviving of interest in Grange work and especially in the work of education. My home Grange, No. 267, has indulged in four contests, and the interest manifested in all of them was very great and has resulted in doubling our membership.

Our regular meetings occur on the first and third Saturdays after the full moon, and we have not missed a meeting during the year, having had twenty-four meetings. We have also had one lecture (on the 18th of February) from the Worthy Lecturer of the State Grange, Bro. Jason Woodman, which all enjoyed very much. We celebrated Children's Day, Saturday, June 9th, so that it would not interfere with our school and both teachers and scholars could attend.

Of County Grange meetings I have attended six, three in our own county (Oakland, No. 5), two in Washtenaw, and one in Wayne, at all of which great interest was manifested, and the discussions following were very interesting and instructive.

In attempting to write a report to this State Grange it seems as though everything had been said that could be, and that a report was only the reiteration of some things already said by others, only in a little different form. There is one subject, however, that I have thought proper to touch upon, and that is the Farmers' Institutes held in different parts of the state by the State Board of Agriculture. In every place where one has been held, they are spoken of with praise, and I would suggest that the Committee on Agriculture ask the legislature, at its next session, to appropriate a sufficient sum to enable the Board to hold many more of these meetings, so that more localities may enjoy their benefits.

All of which is submitted.

A. E. GREEN, *Assistant Steward.*

Worthy Assistant Steward, Sister Green, made report as follows, which on motion was received and referred to Committee on Division of Labor.

Worthy Master and Members of Michigan State Grange:

In compliance with the usages of the State Grange, I have the honor of submitting the report of Lady Assistant Steward. But after listening to the able reports read before me, perhaps you will think the one I am about to present, a mere bundle of common-places. As I represent the lady assistant of the State Grange, I have to speak of women, since men are not eligible to this office.

I represent a class of women hitherto looked upon as the most obscure; for if I speak of women in the Grange, I refer to women of the farms. In this report I cannot give you a history of women in the Grange, nor is it needful, for it is well known to you all that the Grange is the farmer's secret order, organized for the purpose of mutual defense, protection and improvement.

It has been styled the farmers' war on monopolies, but I claim it is more than that. It is the farmers longing after a higher life, the longing after the refinements and opportunities that invariably follow compensated labor. More than this, agriculture is the life of the world; it produces the food; destroy it and all other industries languish, commerce, manufactures, art, science, and even religion dies. The farmers life is a life of toil, but through it comes the bread by which our nation is fed. The farmer puts the higher law of morals and intellectual progress in advance.

In our declaration of purposes, the first proposition is; "united by the strong and faithful tie of agriculture, we mutually resolve to labor for the good of our Order, our country and mankind." In former years the women of the farms were hungering for society, and thirsting for intellectual culture and mental stimulus.

The Grange appeared bearing hope and healing. It lifted the burdens of life and offered to their acceptance, activities that are not all toil, nor all duty. The proclamation that the Grange admits women to membership in the Order was a godsend to the women of the farms. The numberless opportunities the Grange presents to women, if seized upon, may convert by social contact the isolated farm house into a resting place where youth and age may find pleasure and more satisfying enjoyment than the busy centers of life afford. One prominent educator in the Grange is debate, and women engage in the contests with zeal. As we

are not limited in discussions, except we are denied partisan politics and religious sectarianism, all the great questions of the day engage our attention.

We are beginning to like political economy, and by the time suffrage is offered us, the farmers wives and daughters will use it judiciously.

Another great educator for women was the Patrons' National Reading Circle. I see by an item in the lecturer's report that New England alone has 750 reading circles, perhaps these are independent of the national scheme.

I would, therefore, recommend that the Granges of Michigan do more work in the line of organizing reading circles.

We have a quantity of good reading matter, such as slips, sheets, tracts, etc., issued by the National Grange, but this is not sufficient, the slumbering genius of thousands of women has been awakened, and we receive intelligence that from one end of our grand republic to the other the pen of the farmers wives and daughters is busy. They advocate those principles that made our noble order a necessity; their influence is felt in all the great reforms of to-day. We hear her in Pomona with words of wisdom, in anniversaries with addresses and poems, instilling new life into the Order, and embellishing the practical routine of home duties.

We can maintain our life and usefulness only through activity, we cannot live in the past, neither can we remain stationary. Then onward let the Grange move, all honor to its founders. "They builded better than they knew," when they said to women: "Come upon our platforms and share our warfare and its attainments."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

MRS. A. E. GREEN.

The Worthy Master now called recess and Prof. Conger, of the Signal Service was introduced. His half hour's talk was listened to with interest, and for the same he was tendered a rising vote of thanks.

After a song by the choir the Grange took recess till half past seven in the evening.

EVENING SESSION.

On re-assembling, the regular order of business was resumed.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Bro. Haley, from Huron county, presented a resolution relating to the drain laws.

Received and referred to the Committee on Legislative Action.

Bro. Andrews, a resolution relating to a business agency in Detroit.

Received and referred to Committee on Good of the Order.

Bro. Donaldson, a resolution relative to usury laws.

Received and referred to Committee on Legislative Action.

Bro. J. C. Gould, a resolution relating to reduction of fees and dues.

Received and referred to Committee on Good of the Order.

Bro. Wilmarth, a resolution relating to traction engines.

Received and referred to Committee on Legislative Action.

Bro. Hall, from Ionia County Pomona Grange, a resolution relating to conferring degrees.

Received and referred to Committee on Good of the Order.

Bro. Ladd, a resolution from Traverse District Grange relative to the time of collecting taxes.

Received and referred to Committee on Legislative Action.

Bro. Donaldson, a petition relating to the appointing of a committee whose special duty it shall be to present matter approved by this body to the legislature, with a view to securing favorable legislation.

Received and referred to Committee on Good of the Order.

Bro. Ladd offered the following preamble and resolution :

WHEREAS, The Secretary's office is next in importance to the Master's office; therefore

Resolved, by Traverse District Grange, No. 17, that, should any change be made in the ritual, we recommend that the office of Secretary be placed second in the list of officers.

Received and referred to Committee on Good of the Order.

Bro. Gray, a resolution relating to condensing the four degrees into two.

Received and referred to Committee on Good of the Order.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS OF THE STATE GRANGE.

The Worthy Secretary read his annual report:

Worthy Master and Fellow Patrons:

Under apparently favorable conditions the representatives of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry in Michigan are here assembled as a legislative body, for the sixteenth time to learn its financial condition, its social and educational progress, to consider its situation and surroundings and provide for its future welfare. Nor is this all—this coming together annually, not only of such numbers of representatives, but of brothers and sisters from the ranks, cultivates friendships, awakens fresh interest in the work of the Order and adds to the capital stock of good resolutions to work for the aims and objects proclaimed in that noble Declaration of Purposes which we point to with pride as without fault or blemish.

With these objects and expected results in view, we turn first to present the financial condition of the Order at the close of the fiscal year 1888:

RECEIPTS.

Fees and dues from Subordinate Granges.....	\$3806 03	
Dues from Pomona Granges.....	141 10	
Fees from special deputies.....	30 00	
		\$3977 13
Subscriptions to Grange Visitor.....	1474 79	
Advertising collections.....	807 09	
Charged lecture fund on account of Visitor.....	24 00	
		\$2305 88
Supplies sold.....		761 06
Interest collected.....		222 00
Received from defense fund.....		100 00
Total Receipts.....		\$7366 07

DISBURSEMENTS.

Expense of session of 1887.....	\$1229 40	
Per diem and expenses of Executive Committee.....	123 26	
Printing proceedings and other matter.....	87 50	
Bills for supplies.....	630 45	
Stationery Secretary's office and office rent.....	46 90	
Stationery Master's office.....	5 00	
Postage Secretary's office.....	106 68	
Salaries officers State Grange.....	1550 00	
Dues paid National Grange.....	563 59	
Orders drawn on lecture fund.....	355 90	
Amount charged lecture fund on account Visitor.....	24 00	
Printing and mailing Grange Visitor.....	1904 58	
Postage paid on Visitor.....	86 18	
Sundry expenses for making new head for Visitor.....	36 78	
Micellaneous expenses.....	34 61	
Leaving a balance in favor of receipts of.....	581 24	
		\$7366 07

This showing is a sufficient answer to those who suppose the Grange in Michigan is dying out. From the \$500 appropriated to the lecture fund there has been paid on bills approved by the Worthy Master, \$132.34 more than was paid last year from the amount appropriated for that purpose, with what results the Master of the State Grange and the Worthy Lecturer can tell more definitely than I can. A presidential year is certainly not a favorable year for Grange growth, and yet seven new Granges have been organized in this State and four have been reorganized and are at work.

The driven well has ceased to be a source of apprehension to the farmer and the unexpended portion of the Defense Fund has

become a source of revenue to our organization that, at a time when farmers of other states were paying thousands of dollars to royalty robbers, came to the rescue of the individual farmer, whether Patron or not, and assumed the responsibility of protecting all contributors of one dollar to the Defense Fund, the unexpended portion of which now stands secure from an attack of speculating vampires who under our defective patent laws are ready to prey upon all those who can be intimidated, with little regard to the validity of their claims.

The contributors to this Fund, although notified of their right to claim the unexpended part of the dollar individually contributed, have for the most part wisely regarded the advice of the committee, as but a meager few have claimed the unexpended sixty cents to which by the terms of subscription they were severally entitled, but have allowed it to remain in the fund for future protection as occasion may arise. The total value of the Defense Fund as reported last year was then \$1662.22 which, with interest collected to Nov, 30th, \$165.70, gives a total of \$1827.92 from which by order of the Executive Committee, \$100 was paid to the treasurer of the State Grange, leaving a balance on hand of \$1727.92. This growing Fund in the hands of an organization that has proved its willingness to promptly resist impudent claims of royalty speculators, is a protection to the farmers of Michigan and almost equivalent to a guarantee against molestation. But while we of Michigan feel thus secure we should not forget the patent laws of the United States with their objectionable features still remain in force, that every attempt of our representatives to procure protective amendments have so far been baffled by the influence of patent-right lawyers and a patent-right lobby. We should not then, while feeling comparatively secure ourselves, cease to exert all the influence we can command in our individual and organized capacity upon Congress by petition and by personal letters to our representatives, to secure such amendments to the United States patent laws as experience has proved necessary to sufficiently protect the users of patented articles.

As editor and manager of the *Grange Visitor*, a statement at this time of its standing is due the representatives of the Order. While in circulation it has hardly held its own when compared with last year, yet the total receipts exceeded the receipts of last year by \$33.89. Those who are not specially interested in this matter of circulation cannot fully realize the competition that has grown up between publishers, and the effort being made to increase the circulation of periodical literature. Prices are reduced and premiums offered that bring the price of many a printed sheet down to the cost of the white paper used in the printing. At these prices people are induced to subscribe and the standard answer to an invitation to subscribe for the *Visitor* is, "I am taking more papers now than I have time to read." To get new subscribers, or even renewals, requires a solicitor, and this is a work not voluntarily undertaken, except by those who have an unusual amount of zeal for the good of the Order. With the price reduced one-half the work of canvassing could not be dispensed with. The average farmer is given in many things to procrastination and while he may be willing to pay for a paper, he will seldom of his own motion order and pay for one without an invitation from an intermediate party. The much abused middleman must take a part, or the established habit of delay will prove fatal to good intentions, how-

ever often renewed. Commendatory resolutions adopted by this body urging support are of little avail. A reduction of the price might be advisable, but to personal appeal do I look as the more effective method of enlarging the list of subscribers than to any other. Patrons are not always as mindful of their duty to themselves as Patrons and to the Order that has done so much for the farmers of the country as might be expected. If, as I have learned, the National Grange favored the appointment of State Inspectors of Granges and their work, and Michigan should adopt the recommendation, here is a chance to push this line of Grange work at a small cost with a most hopeful outlook for good results. I should not care to press this matter upon your attention, but for the fact that among those best qualified to have a sound opinion on this subject, there is general agreement that to maintain the Order in this state as a power for good, it is absolutely essential that this, or some other Grange paper, be sustained and read by the Patrons of this country who hold to a common faith and purpose as farmers.

In view of the attention that has been given to politics by the good people of Michigan the past year and the absorbing interest everywhere felt by all our people, it is perhaps a matter of congratulation that our showing is as favorable as it is; and here seems to me a suitable time and place to refer to the fact that of all the western states, Michigan Patrons have more closely adhered to the letter and spirit of Grange principles in their independent political action than those of any other, and in so doing have shown their appreciation of the wisdom of the founders of the Order. Nothing is more clearly expressed in the Declaration of Purposes than the inalienable right and duty of every American citizen to take a proper interest in the politics of his country. That the Patrons of Michigan have judiciously exercised that right without going beyond any restrictive law, rule or usage I think is accepted as true by every fair-minded, intelligent citizen of the State, whether within or outside the gates.

In response to an inquiry as to the Granges of this State owning halls, 53 have made answer, and 47 of these reported their total value at \$46,785. There are, of course, many more, but as some of our worthy secretaries either do not take or do not read the *Visitor*, the reports from many are still wanting. Observation hardly confirms the opinion once so confidently expressed, that Granges owning halls were more prosperous than those that did not. This leads to the conclusion that the real basis of success lies in a clear appreciation of the principles and grand purposes of the Order, and while good halls are attractive and valuable they cannot be relied on to maintain and perpetuate the vital principles of the Order. The real basis of success must be a high appreciation of the educational and social features of the Grange. Where these objects are fully understood as announced in the Declaration of Purposes of the Order, and sustained by an ambition to attain the good results within the reach of all, then the Grange will prosper and its salutary influence will be felt in the community where it holds a place, as does that of any other educational organization. The contest scheme which was so successfully prosecuted last year in many Granges has borne good fruit this, and its stimulating influence has added to the membership of the Order. The work is essentially educational and made valuable by the increased interest given by the competitive spirit which it kindles. Wisely directed, it ranks as one of the best schemes to promote activity in Grange work

yet adopted by the Order. These annual sessions cost quite a sum of money. That they serve to animate and strengthen the faith of the Patrons in attendance needs no farther proof than an hour's observation here on this floor or in the hotel parlors where, during recess, we find the Brothers and Sisters enjoying the social advantage that comes to these annual meetings. These Patrons return to their homes and to their several Granges carrying with them new life and awakened energies which are utilized for the good of the Order by every earnest Patron. Not only representatives, but visiting members should feel it obligatory to carry back to the Grange of which he or she is a member, as full a report of these proceedings as possible, and particularly note every feature of progress and advancement made by the Order, that the Subordinate Grange may derive the greatest possible benefit from these annual meetings. No duty is more obligatory upon each representative present than that of attending at the earliest day practicable, a session of these Granges and communicating every item of interest here gathered that can be of value to the constituency of such representative.

These proceedings when printed do not at once come to the notice of all our membership, and if they did, would not awaken such a lively interest as a verbal report fresh from one who has participated in the proceedings. By the past we are to judge of the future; this Grange will discuss during the week, and act upon many questions presented, all of which will appear upon the record of proceedings in regular order. Some of the matter thus disposed of, to be of lasting value will require legislative work, and it has seemed to me that heretofore this Grange has been remiss in not taking the necessary steps to make most effective its conclusions upon subjects requiring legislative action. Would it not be wise to add something more to the expense necessarily incurred by the session, by authorizing such compensation of a legislative committee as will make reasonably sure that the work of this body requiring legislative action will not be lost—for want of enforced attention upon the legislature.

I am aware that suggestions of this kind are not strictly in the line of my official duty in making the required annual report of the business of the Secretary's office, but as they impose no obligation of action on the part of the Grange, I trust that my good intentions will be accepted as a reason for their presentation. In common with my Brothers and Sisters who have been clothed with official duties and responsibilities, the close of our official term is at hand. Again returning to the ranks from which for the eighth time I have been called to discharge the duties of the Secretary's office, it affords me great pleasure to certify to the pleasant relations that have existed between the officers of the State Grange and members of the executive committee with whom I have been associated and the hundreds of Brothers and Sisters that I have met from time to time here and elsewhere; and as the years of the future come and go I shall ever cherish in grateful remembrance the many proofs of confidence in my devotion to the best interests of the Order and of the farmers of our country, received from the Patrons of Michigan.

J. T. COBB.

Report received, and on motion referred to Committee on Division of Labor.

The Worthy Lecturer read his annual report as follows:

Worthy Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

I submit the following report of my work as Lecturer since the last session of the State Grange:

I have, during the year, delivered 62 public lectures, besides several talks at places where meetings had been appointed; but where, owing to bad weather and other causes, but few people came together.

A large proportion of this work has been among the weaker Granges and has been work assigned me by the Worthy Master and under whose direction it has been performed. The expenses of these meetings have mostly been defrayed from the lecture fund. I have also delivered eight lectures in localities where no Granges existed. Following this work has been the organization of three new Granges and the revival of one dormant Grange. Perhaps the greater share of the credit of this work is due to efficient deputies.

In regard to making the lecture work more effective, I wish to reiterate what I said in my report last year in regard to advertising meetings. When you are going to have a public Grange lecture, not only advertise in the local papers and by posters, but take especial pains to give hearty, personal invitations to those people you desire to have present. Another thing, let there always be a full attendance of the members of the Grange. This is too often lacking. If you do not take interest enough in the meetings to go yourselves, you cannot reasonably expect those outside the gates to be present.

Lectures should be delivered in series. It often has been said that it was not, as a rule, good policy to invite a lecturer a long distance to deliver one address. It will do no harm to say this several times more. A lecture trip a hundred miles from home, means an expense of six dollars for railroad fare, and probably three or four dollars more for hotel bills and other incidental expenses, for lecturers, like other persons, must eat and sleep.

Going a hundred miles to deliver one lecture and returning, will use from one to four days time, for which the lecturer ought to be paid.

I delivered one lecture during the last year that caused a trip of two hundred and eighty miles, for which the actual necessary traveling expenses was \$11.45. I spent three days' time, for which I should receive \$7.50, making a total expense of \$18.95 for one lecture. I am intimately acquainted with the lecture delivered on that occasion, and I don't believe it was worth the money. If I had put in a week's work in that locality without further incidental expenses, it would have made the cost of four lectures just \$6.60 each, or a little more than one-third the cost per lecture of the one I delivered. I think this illustration shows the expediency of arranging for lectures in series.

UNORGANIZED TERRITORY.

During the year eleven Granges have been organized or reorganized in the State. This is a matter of congratulation, but there remain many sections where good Granges can be organized if the methods of work, aims and purposes of the Order were only fully understood. A little time and money judiciously expended on

these localities would be productive of good results. This matter will, undoubtedly, receive consideration, and it is to be hoped that some definite plan of action will be decided on.

It is gratifying to know that we have increased in membership in the State and nation. This shows the Order to be in a healthy condition; but we must not forget wherein lies our greatest usefulness. The State and National Granges have their several duties to perform, but the Subordinate Grange is the foundation of all; to be permanent it must of itself be good for something.

OUR EDUCATIONAL WORK.

The literary and parliamentary training we receive, and the reading and study such work, necessarily brings in its train, is the corner-stone of success in the Subordinate Grange. There are many Granges in the state that are regarded as models; are held up as examples to be patterned after. What has made these Granges? Systematic literary work; work on which thought and labor have not been spared. Let us study and discuss the methods of such Granges and profit by their ideas and plans.

The education and training of the American farmer for the broad fields of public usefulness, is the most necessary work that can be done for the protection of our agriculture. The schooling one receives in his youth, no matter how thorough, can only be a beginning. It must be continued in after years if the farmer is to become the intellectual peer of the professional man. There is only one place where this work ever has been thoroughly done, and that is in our best Subordinate and County Granges. Let such Granges and their work be a stimulus to the rest; and let us remember that here as elsewhere there is no excellence without labor.

With this session of the State Grange closes my term as Lecturer. I have endeavored to perform the duties of my office faithfully, and I thank the worthy Patrons of the State for the hearty assistance and kindly words of encouragement they have given me in my work in the lecture field.

JASON WOODMAN, *Lecturer*.

Received and on motion referred to Committee on Division of Labor.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Bro. Burrington moved the election of officers be made the special order for Wednesday at two o'clock P. M.

Motion prevailed.

Gov. Luce, Past Master of this State Grange, having entered the hall for a brief hour, took occasion to speak upon the value to farmers of the State of the experimental station, and closed with a motion that President Willetts of the Agricultural College, be invited to address this body at some time during the session.

Motion prevailed.

Bro. Platt moved that President Willetts be invited to speak "to-morrow."

A Brother moved to amend by striking out "to-morrow," and inserting in lieu thereof, "Thursday evening."

The motion as amended prevailed.

Bro. Platt moved this Grange hold a public meeting Thursday evening.

Motion carried.

Bro. Green moved that Bro. Burrington be a committee of one to draft resolutions on the death of the Worthy Master of the National Grange.

Motion prevailed.

Bro. Burrington objecting, Bro. Platt moved that as several prominent members of the Order had departed this life since the last session of the State Grange, the Worthy Master appoint a committee of three on Obituaries to draft and present resolutions to this body.

Which motion prevailed.

Having exhausted the order of business, the Grange was entertained by speeches from His Excellency, Governor Luce, Past Master Woodman, and others. After a song by the choir, the Grange closed in form to meet again at nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

SECOND DAY—Morning Session.

Grange opened in form by Worthy Master Thomas Mars.

Quorum present.

Journal of proceedings of first day's session read and approved.

The Worthy Master announced as Committee on Obituaries Sisters Perry Mayo, J. C. Gould and O. M. Sykes.

Regular order of business taken up.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS OF THE STATE GRANGE.

Sister Mayo, Pomona, made the following report:

Worthy Master, Brothers and Sisters:

As a representative of one of the graces of our Order we greet you. Another year of Grange life has nearly passed. Spring

followed the winter; it came to us bright and joyous, bringing bursting bud and leaf. The bare, brown earth grew warm, vitalized by light and heat, the seeds that God or man had planted became the living plant. It was nature's resurrection morn. It requires but little faith, in the spring-time, to believe in the resurrection of the body.

The summer days came on, bringing the longer hours of intenser heat, the bursting bud and leaf became the fields of wheat and grass and corn, whose golden heads nodded to each other, or tossed their plumed spears like an army with banners. The trees, that in the spring time turned pink and white petals up toward sun and dew, now showed a growing fruitage under their green leaves.

The crowning glory of the season came to us in the autumn time. The earth has yielded her fruits. Our barns are filled with plenty. The provident Patron has gathered in the result of the summer's toil, and from our hearts we should look up and say, "We are thankful."

"And as the days go by."

Does it ever occur to you, my brothers and sisters, how fast the days go by? Can any of us see any fruitage of our lives this past year? The seed time came to us as surely as it came to the farmer in the spring. The thoughts that inspire to noble deeds, the strivings for a higher plane of usefulness, the longings for a purer, better life—these are the seeds that if nurtured, fostered and cultivated, will develop in our lives the fruits of right living. But there must be the pruning and cultivating. Has there been rooted out from our lives a single bad habit? Has there been the subduing of a quick temper, the withholding of cross words? What has been our influence upon the young in our homes and neighborhoods? has the law of kindness ruled us? Have we been ever ready to exercise the "greatest of these," charity? Has there shown from our lives a pure, clear ray, that some one has seen and followed to something higher? If there has, the fruits of our lives have been consistent with the precepts of our Order.

Where has been the fruits of work in our respective Granges this past year? Have we attended the meetings regularly when our own health and the health of our family would permit? Have we been there at the hour of opening, extending the hand in friendly, fraternal greeting; been ready to do the duty assigned us, sustaining the officers in all good words and works, thinking and planning for the Grange when outside of its walls, eager to take in something new, that may interest and instruct? promptly paid our dues, subscribed for the *Visitor*, been able to give a reasonable reason why we are Patrons, and from results accomplished to hold out inducements for others to join us? If we have done this, the fruits of our Grange work are evident—a live, prosperous Grange. If, on the other hand, we have been tardy in attendance, grumbled and found fault because some brother or sister was putting in good, active work, making things move, even against our sour temper and stubborn way; if we have thrown a wet blanket upon every endeavor to make the Grange fire burn brightly, forgotten to pay our dues, taken the *Grange Visitor* because it was paid for from the Grange treasury, never opening it, and then declaring it was not worth the paper it was printed on, said to those outside, "the Grange don't amount to anything, anyway," the fruits of your Grange can be readily seen—a dying, dead Order.

What have been the fruits of our organization as a State Grange this past year? One year ago we met, drafted many important resolutions and passed the same, listened to able reports that contained good sound seed, that if only cultivated would produce bountifully. Did the seeds fall by the wayside, to be devoured by side issues or blighted by neglect? Has our power as an Order been felt by our foes? Has oppression in any form lightened its grasp upon us? Has Congress been cognizant of the fact that such an Order as "Patrons of Husbandry" exists in Michigan? Have the agricultural interests of the State, which are the basis of all prosperity, received any attention from our law makers?

Never before have there been such a forming of trusts and monopolies. There are to-day coal trusts, sugar trusts, oil trusts, meat trusts, milling and plaster trusts. Do we know what influence these trusts are having upon the producer and consumer? We cannot rest our oars upon past achievements, else we drift downward with the tide. There must be aggressive work all along the line. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

Mrs. MARY A. MAYO, *Pomona*.

Report received and on motion referred to Committee on Good of the Order.

The Worthy Treasurer read his annual report as follows:

Worthy Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

Another year with its busy cares and toil, its joys and sorrows, has passed, and again we assemble as Patrons to exchange greetings and obtain some useful lessons from the experience of the past, and lay new plans for the future.

The past year has been a prosperous one in regard to the finances of the State Grange, and I am glad that I can report to you an increase in the amount of money on hand over last year.

The financial condition of the State Grange for the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1888, is as follows:

RESOURCES.

Cash on hand at beginning of the year.....	\$ 2,012 29	
Notes	3,700 00	
Received from Sec. J. T. Cobb.....	7,366 07	\$13,078 36

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid orders during the year from Nos. 1 to 62 inclusive	\$ 6,784 83	
Leaving a balance in my hands of notes....	3,700 00	
Of cash	2,593 53	\$13,078 36

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. A. STRONG,

Treas. Mich State Grange.

Report received and referred to Finance Committee.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Bro. Hewitt offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolved, That the Committee on Good of the Order, and they are hereby instructed to devise some plan by which the material recommended for legislative action by this Grange shall be properly presented to the legislature at its next session and report the same to this Grange at the earliest moment practicable.

Resolution received and adopted.

Bro. Horton moved a committee of three on programme for the public meeting be appointed by the chair.

Motion prevailed.

A Brother moved to reconsider the vote by which this Grange decided to visit Capitol Grange this evening.

Motion lost.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Bro. Joseph Shaw, a petition from Grand Ledge Grange, relating to equalizing taxation on mortgaged property.

Received and referred to Committee on Good of the Order.

Bro. Murphy, a preamble and resolution urging all representatives to use their influence to extend the circulation of the *Grange Visitor* in their several counties.

Received and referred to Committee on Good of the Order.

Bro. Ladd presented resolutions from Traverse District Grange, recommending the repeal of the law creating township boards of review.

Received and referred to Committee on Good of the Order.

Bro. Lott, a petition relating to taxation.

Received and referred to Committee on Good of the Order.

Sister Ladd presented a resolution from the Grand Traverse Pomona Grange, adverse to a reduction of fees in Subordinate Granges.

Received and referred to Committee on Good of the Order.

Bro. Ladd, a series of resolutions relating to school ex-

aminers, favoring uniformity of text-books in schools, and in opposition to the so-called township system.

Received and referred to Committee on Legislative Action.

A petition from Flushing Grange, No. 38, relative to taxing mortgages.

Received and referred to Committee on Legislative Action.

Bro. Hall, a resolution adverse to the use of barbed wire for highway and line fences.

Received and referred to Committee on Legislative Action.

The time having arrived for the special order, the superintendent of public instruction, Professor Estabrook, ably entertained the Grange for three-quarters of an hour, and received for the same a unanimous vote of thanks.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS OF THE STATE GRANGE.

Worthy Gate Keeper made report as follows:

To the Officers and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

In response to duty, I offer the following report: That first principle and purpose of our Order—education, is held in high esteem, therefore I deem it our imperative duty to diligently labor for a uniformity of text-books in the common schools of this state, also that the publication of the same be under state contract, that they may be furnished to the people at the lowest possible cost.

As the agricultural class bear an undue proportion of taxation, and, as it has not received public aid commensurate with its vast importance, as compared with other interests, I offer for your consideration the propriety of asking our legislature an appropriation sufficient to hold at least one Farmer's Institute, per annum, in each county of sufficient population to warrant success.

Feeling, as I do, the benefit to those taking the *Visitor*, our own, and only medium of exchange of thought and information, and observing the absolute necessity of such a medium to secure the best results from our labors, we, as Patrons, should not only subscribe for it ourselves, as members of this body, but give it our personal attention until every Patron in Michigan shall have access to it, and then extend it among the farmers outside the gate.

I am pleased to mention with favor the good work being done by, and the benefits already derived from the Signal Service, which is yet in its infancy, and as it is a part of our mission here, as agriculturists, and as an Order, to delve deep into nature's ways and draw out her hidden mysteries to deepen and widen the science of agriculture, we owe our undivided support to this comparatively new department, as an important factor to the farther development of the science of agriculture.

In conclusion, I am highly gratified to report that great im-

provement has been made in the unwritten work of our Order within the past year. With but a single exception, this entire body has given the "test" in a manner much to its credit, which indicates an increased interest in the workings of our noble Order.

J. C. GOULD, G. K.

Report received and on motion referred to Committee on Division of Labor.

The Worthy Master at this time announced the following Committee on Programme for the public meeting:

Bros. Horton and Burrington and Sister Gunnison.

On motion, a recess was ordered until half past one.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

On reassembling, the regular order of business was taken up.

Bro. Passmore moved that the installation of officers be a part of the programme for the public meeting

Motion prevailed.

A Brother moved that a messenger be appointed to wait upon the committees absent from the room and inform them that the time for the special order, the election of officers, had arrived.

Carried.

The Worthy Master appointed as such committee, Bro. Partridge.

The Grange then proceeded to the election of officers, with the following result:

Master—Thomas Mars.

Overseer—Perry Mayo.

Lecturer—Jason Woodman.

Steward—A. P. Gray.

Assistant Steward—A. E. Green.

Chaplain—Sister Perry Mayo.

Treasurer—A. E. Strong.

Secretary - J. T. Cobb.

Gate Keeper—George Carlisle.

Ceres—Mrs. Thomas Mars.

Bro. Ladd moved to postpone the further election of officers until half past eight to-morrow morning.

Carried.

After a song by the choir, the Grange closed in form.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

In response to the invitation from Capitol Grange, the State Grange attended a meeting in their hall, and were entertained with a most excellent programme, which imposed work mainly on the younger members of the Grange.

The large hall of Capitol Grange was crowded to its utmost capacity, chairs and all standing room were occupied during the entire session of the Grange.

The lesson taught the representatives of the Subordinate and Pomona Granges present was most valuable, as before them was shown the results of a Grange training that had reached the high standard of our best schools and seminariee of learning.

THIRD DAY—Morning Session.

THURSDAY, 8:30 A. M.

Grange opened in form with Worthy Master Thomas Mars in the chair.

Journal of yesterday's proceedings read and approved.

Sister Mayo moved the farther election of officers be postponed until half past ten.

Motion lost.

Special order, the election of officers was resumed with the following result:

Pomona—Sister Passmore.

Flora—Sister Gunnison.

Lady Assistant Steward—Sister Wiley.

Executive Committee—H. D. Platt, F. H. Redfern, G. B. Horton and J. C. Gould.

On motion, the choir were excused for the afternoon after the opening song.

Regular order of business taken up.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Bro. Dresser offered a preamble and resolution condemning the present district schools system of the state and recommended a change.

Received and referred to Committee on Education.

Bro. Gray presented a petition from Grove Grange, No. 528, numerous signed, setting forth the multiplicity of text-books in use, their great and unnecessary cost, and asking for such action as will secure thorough legislation, pecuniary relief with the advantages that would come through uniformity of text-books throughout the state.

Received and referred to Committee on Education.

Bro. Murphy, a petition relating to State Grange dues.

Received and referred to Committee on By-Laws of Subordinate Granges.

Bro. Partridge a petition relating to the saloon.

Received and referred to Committee on Legislative Action.

By the same, a paper asking the State Grange to advise all Patrons to withhold patronage from State, district and local fairs that license saloons or games of chance of any kind on their grounds.

Received and referred to Committee on Resolutions.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Bro. J. G. Ramsdell, chairman of the Executive Committee, made the following report:

Worthy Master and Members of the State Grange:—

In compliance with the direction of the Executive Committee, I have the honor to present this, their sixteenth annual report.

Immediately after the election of the members of this Committee, at the last annual meeting, the Committee met in the speaker's room and selected J. G. Ramsdell chairman. Previous to the transaction of any further business, the chairman was called away and Brother Thos. Mars was elected temporary chairman.

On Friday evening your Committee assembled at room No. 42, Hudson House, to consider such matters as had been referred to them by the Grange. In the matter of the report of the Worthy Lecturer the Committee directed the Secretary to strike out that portion of the report calculated to cast a slur upon rural districts. It was also ordered that one hundred dollars be charged up to the Defense Fund for the supervision and care of that fund, and that the Secretary retain ten per cent of that portion of the Defense Fund contributed in the year 1887.

It was further ordered that the Chairman of the Executive Committee should turn over the Defense Fund notes to the Treasurer of the State Grange for safe keeping.

It was further provided that the Secretary should have printed two thousand copies of the by-laws and such other matter in the

same connection as he should deem advisable for distribution among Subordinate Granges. Under the direction the Secretary has compiled a manual of Grange law and jurisprudence of 52 pages, carefully edited and indexed, which is proving of great service to Subordinate Granges and a great relief to the Worthy Master and Worthy Lecturer in their correspondence by enabling each Grange to settle nearly all questions of law and practice without recourse to those officers for instructions. Brothers Horton and Burrington were appointed a special committee to visit Detroit for the purpose of making some arrangements with responsible parties for handling shipments of produce by Patrons.

On the last day of the session the following resolution was offered by Brother Barry and adopted, viz:

Resolved, That all matters passed by the State Grange, asking for Legislative action be, and the same is hereby referred to the Executive Committee for the purpose of perfecting and publicly presenting the same before the legislature of congress.

This action of the State Grange was not brought to the notice of the Executive Committee or any member of it either officially or otherwise, until the same appeared in the published report of the proceedings of the State Grange, so that no action was taken upon it at the Committee's last session. When the matter was brought to the notice of the Chairman by receiving a copy of the published report of the proceedings; the Chairman considering the fact there would be another session of the Grange before another State legislature would convene, and that in this as in all other presidential election years where the two great parties are so evenly balanced, nothing would be done in congress for the relief of the country, concluded that it would be a useless expenditure of the Grange funds to call the committee together to act upon the resolution, deeming it better to refer the resolution back to the Grange for further instruction at this session.

The lecture field was again placed in the hands of the Worthy Master with all the matters pertaining to the general work of the Order. For information in that department we respectfully refer to the reports of the Worthy Master and Lecturer.

On consultation with the Worthy Master it was considered best not to call the usual October meeting of the Committee. The only business to be done before the annual meeting of the State Grange being the settlement with the Secretary and Treasurer, providing for the meeting of the State Grange and the furnishing of appropriate music. It was arranged that the Master should provide the music for this occasion. The Secretary should arrange for the annual meeting, and the Chairman should examine the books of the Secretary and Treasurer and report their condition.

Under this arrangement the Chairman visited the Secretary and Treasurer at the Secretary's office on the 8th of November last, and with them looked over the accounts and examined into such other matters as it was deemed essential to report.

The books of the Secretary's office are in excellent shape. A few moment's inspection is sufficient to enable anyone at all familiar with keeping accounts to readily understand the system in all its details. Everything was found correct, agreeing with the vouchers present, showing receipts and expenditures as reported by those officers. The total membership of the Grange as shown by the books of the Secretary was 12,272.

GRANGE VISITOR.

The matter of the publication, editing and general business and financial management of THE VISITOR has been left entirely to the good judgement of Bro. Cobb. Any interference on the part of the committee or any of its members was deemed undesirable. Therefore, we refer to the Worthy Secretary's report for further information under this head.

TAXATION.

Under the present system of taxation the farmer and the manufacturer have the heft of the public burden to bear. Their property is all in sight and may be valued by the assessing officer at figures approximating its real worth, while the property of the money lender and the professional man is hidden, or so complicated in detail, that a careful inventory only, can determine its real worth. The assessing officer must depend upon the honesty of the owner in determining its value. Efforts were made by the last legislature to remedy the evils growing out of this condition. The remedy proposed, has, we believe, brought much concealed property to light and made it bear its just share of taxation and has been a step in the right direction, and we believe this Grange should ask for a continuance of the mortgage taxation law with such amendments as the practical operation of the law has shown to be necessary to its complete execution in the spirit intended by its authors.

As the farming class has the largest share of the burden of taxation both proportionately and in quantity, we claim the right to examine into the needs and management of our penal, reformatory, charitable and educational institutions, and call upon the managers of these institutions to use the same economy in the expenditures for, and the management of these institutions as we, the tax-paying farmers are obliged to use in our financial affairs. When we see a half million of money used to construct a building that will house but five hundred persons, requiring one thousand dollars per head for house alone, we are led to ask how many of the farmers who are paying for this lavish expenditure, can afford to expend \$1000 for each member of his household in erecting a palace for their comfort.

While we are in favor of adequate provision for, and rigid discipline in our penal institutions, we believe they ought to be made nearly self-sustaining; and while we would allow no subject of State charity to suffer for the necessities or common comforts of life, we believe that all beyond is injurious to the indigent and unfortunate, and unjust to the overburdened tax-payer. While we are proud of our educational institutions, from the district school to the university, and would have none of them crippled for want of necessary funds to give efficient instruction in each, yet we feel and we believe that feeling prevails with the intelligent thinking people of the State, that the results obtained in the educational line are not at all commensurate with the lavish expenditure shown by our tax receipts, and we believe that reform is needed in all these respects.

We most earnestly thank our noble farmer Governor for his persistent efforts during the last session of the legislature in cutting down all unnecessary appropriations and calling a halt to undue extravagance, and we most emphatically approve of his veto of the so-called university bill, for the reasons in his message set forth. We ask the coming legislature to scrutinize closely all es-

timates for appropriations and cut them down to the lowest possible point of effective administration, and if the legislature shall fail to do so, we ask our wise and economical Governor to stand by his convictions and have the courage to veto extravagance, no matter from what source asked, assuring him with an abiding faith that the people will stand by him and approve his course.

J. G. RAMSDELL,
H. D. PLATT,
J. Q. A. BURRINGTON,
G. B. HORTON,
F. W. REDFERN,
A. S. PARTRIDGE,
THOS. MARS, } Ex-Officio.
J. T. COBB, }

Committee.

Report received, and there being no objection, the Worthy Master referred it to the Committee on Division of Labor.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS OF THE STATE GRANGE.

The Worthy Overseer made the following report :

Worthy Master and Patrons :

Fifteen years ago you held your first meeting as a State organization and many of you who are present to-day were members of that gathering. Public sentiment at that time was not entirely in harmony with Grange doctrines and teachings, and no opportunity was lost by the press and by those who belonged to other industries or professions in holding you up for ridicule or derision ; you were regarded by many as the enemies of business prosperity and progress, and greed and avarice were regarded as being at least two of the corner-stones of the Grange structure. Others believed that you were a political organization, born for the purpose of bringing about a political revolution, destroying parties, and trampling under foot party traditions and principles that had been handed down through generations by long haired political patri-archs.

But time has demonstrated the fact that all were mistaken, for times are fairly prosperous and the wheels of progress seem to be moving along at a fair pace, and as the occasion demands, the farmer steps up and votes the party ticket as his father did years ago.

There is no denying the fact that the Grange as an organization, has undergone a transformation that is truly marvelous or else public opinion has changed wonderfully, for to-day you are looked upon as the true representatives of the agricultural interests of this great State, and as such are supposed to voice the sentiments and to give expression to the wishes of the agricultural classes. Your appeal for justice, and the righting of wrongs that may exist is made to the law-making power of the State, not as applicants for favors that may be given or withheld at pleasure, but as citizens who ask for equal rights and exact justice at the hands of those who have been entrusted with legislative power.

How important then that those requests be carefully considered and intelligently made, that they may receive the care and attention that their importance requires.

No class of citizens feel the effect of pernicious legislation more keenly than you, and on the other hand none appreciate wise or wholesome laws more readily. No class responds more cheerfully to a wise expenditure of public money than you, and none oppose more bitterly unwise taxation, from the fact, that if an equality exists in our system of taxation, it is clearly not in your favor as our rural tax rolls will testify.

In my judgment, it is important that you call the attention of the legislature to the condition of our tax laws and ask that they be so amended as to require a property holder to pay a tax upon what he owns only.

Do not attempt too much at one time, and thus fail in everything, but carefully adopt a line of action and persevere in it to a final conclusion. Do as other people do; adopt the methods practiced by other professions and you will succeed; let the undying watchword be equality before the law; equal burdens and equal privileges,

I would recommend that on all questions on which you desire legislative action, that you employ some person to carefully draft the bills for the measures contemplated and follow them up to a successful termination or a stubbornly contested defeat, and pay them as other people do.

Time will not permit me to enumerate the great advantages that the Grange has been and is to us in the way of social and intellectual improvement, and it is entirely unnecessary that I should do so, as you have a grand illustration of it in the representatives of this body.

In taking my leave of you as your Overseer, permit me to say, that I am not unmindful of the many advantages nor ungrateful for the many favors received at your hands, and my only wish is that I may always prove true to the Order that has done so much for me.

JOHN HOLBROOK.

Report received.

Bro. Campbell moved to adopt. Bro. Passmore moved as a substitute that it be referred to the Committee on Division of Labor.

Motion prevailed, and the report was so referred.

Sister J. C. Gould, Worthy Flora, read her report as follows:

Worthy Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange.

When came the warm breeze of springtime, to break with soft, moving touch, the long sleep of meadow and woodland; and among the green springing grasses appeared bright, sturdy blossoms, obeying the law of their nature, to bring to the useful the refinement of beauty; how bare, and by contrast how desolate seemed the scenes of my thoughts—our school yards!

A poem once came to my hand in which the writer revived the days of his childhood: "Among the fair pictures on memory's wall, hung clear in its outline the ancient gray school house; the desks deeply carved by mischievous fingers, the loose, flapping siding by carelessness left, and around all a bleak wind-swept barren;" but here he cared not to linger, quickly he passed to pleasanter and more engrossing thoughts.

Passes all too quickly the years of one's childhood; but the plastic minds of the children receive impressions that all the years of a life-time fail to efface. Shall they be cheer-giving visions of brightness and beauty, or pictures of darkness and gloom?

The results of the future with us are now lying, far, deep in the heart of each human, a germ has been planted that wakens to life and responds to the touch of the outward. Others have plans for adorning our school yards with shrubs and with trees both bright and majestic. I am glad of their efforts and wish them "God speed," while one thing more I am asking,—I plead for the flowers! Not rare exotics, far fetched and expensive, but bright, common flowers that, needing slight care, will yet yield returns, not alone to the eye. Now that our teachers are under command to faithfully master botanical lore, they'll soon be prepared full well to impart the instruction contained in the humblest of flowers. By management, wise and judicious, a stepping-stone here may be made toward a pure after life, refining the lessons that after life brings.

And this was one thought I had in my heart when presenting this work to our sisters last year, and, finding so many hearts that responded, encouraged and cheered me to still labor on.

May we ever remember, what so oft mere glanced from life's lessons, that the mission of use and of beauty will evermore fail of utmost completeness, if we keep them asunder; and so surround the dear children with influences so wisely commingled as shall tend to develop well rounded symmetrical lives!

"Fair flowers, upspring from the soil!
Sweet messengers of love!
They spread the earth with beauty rare,
And lift the heart above.

They sweetly whisper hope to man,
Whene'er his faith grows dim;
That who so careth for the flowers
Will care much more for him."

MRS. J. C. GOULD, *Flora*.

Received and referred to Committee on Division of Labor.

Motion to take recess until half past one prevailed.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

On reassembling, the order of business, was taken up, and reports of Standing Committees, were called for.

The chairman of Committee on Instructions to Delegates to the National Grange, made report as follows:

Worthy Master and Members of the State Grange:

Your Committee on Instructions to Delegates to the National Grange, after having carefully considered the resolution referred to them, relating to fees that are sent to the State and National Granges, (at the organization of Subordinate Granges) be retained

by the Subordinate Grange, do recommend that the law relating thereto be so changed as to accord with said resolution, and that our delegates to the National Grange be so instructed.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. D. COOK,
W. J. CAMPBELL,
MRS. E. A. TAYLOR,
GILBERT BRADLEY,
O. BARRETT,
U. W. BARRETT,
C. W. TAYLOR,
J. A. DUNWELL,
Committee.

Report received, adopted and recommendations concurred in.

The Chairman of Committee on Division of Labor reported as follows:

Worthy Master and Members of the State Grange:

Your Committee on Division of Labor respectfully report: We recommend that so much of the Worthy Master's address as refers to the lecture system be referred to the Executive Committee. The part referring to the need of laws against trusts to the Committee on Legislative Action, that part referring to the constitutional amendments, presented by the National Grange for ratification or rejection by the State Grange, be referred to the Committee on Constitutional Amendments; that part referring to the effects of prohibitory laws in the State of Kansas, be referred to the Committee on Good of the Order; that part referring to the *Grange Visitor* be referred to Committee on Publication; that part referring to the Pomona Grange as a preventive of dormancy be referred to Committee on Dormant Granges; that part referring to the contest system to the Committee on Good of the Order; that part referring to reading circles to the Committee on Education; that part referring to the appointment of special correspondents for the *Grange Visitor* be referred to the Committee on Publication.

And we further recommend that the Overseer's address be referred in full to the Committee on Legislative Action; that part of the report of the Executive Committee referring to the mortgage tax law, be referred to the Committee on Legislative Action; and, further, that part referring to the penal, charitable and educational institutions of the State, be referred to the same committee. And we recommend that so much as refers to Governor Luce and his veto of the so-called university bill be referred to the Committee on Resolutions. We recommend that part of the Lecturer's report referring to the better advertising of meetings be referred to the Committee on Good of the Order; that part referring to enlarging the lecture field be referred to the Executive Committee. We recommend Flora's report to the Committee on Education. That part of the report of the Lady Assistant, urging the formation of reading circles, be referred to the Committee on Education,

and we recommend that the report of the Gate Keeper be referred to the Committee on Education.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. T. STARK,
L. H. WILMARTH,
MRS. M. COX,
MRS. JAMES COUSINS,
MRS. J. J. BENNETT,
MRS. N. STOVER,
Committee.

Report received and on motion adopted, and recommendations concurred in.

No objection being offered, Bro. and Sister Loren Day were excused from further attendance at this session.

The Committee on Finances made report as follows:

Worthy Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

Your committee to whom was assigned the duty of ascertaining the financial condition of the State Grange have examined that part of the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports relating to the finances of the Order and find them correct.

RESOURCES.

Cash on hand Dec. 1, 1887.....	\$ 2,012 29
Notes secured by mortgage.....	3,700 00
Received from Secretary Cobb.....	7,366 07
Total	\$13,078 36

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid orders during the year.....	\$ 6,784 83
We also find in the hands of the Treasurer, notes secured by mortgage.....	3,700 00
And cash.....	2,593 53
Total amount in Treasurer's hands	\$ 6,293 53

By comparing this amount with the amount in the hands of the Treasurer one year ago, we find a balance in favor of receipts of \$581.24.

In the seven preceeding years, the receipts have exceeded the expenditures by less than one hundred dollars a year. The large excess of receipts for the year just closed, shows the finances of the Order to be in a prosperous condition and points to a bright future.

The defence fund has steadily increased until it now amounts to \$1,727.92. We recommend that this fund be continued and kept in readiness for any emergency.

In regard to the lecture work, we recommend the use of more home talent where Granges are already organized. Let the lecturers of the Pomona Granges take the field and do more missionary work. They should aid the special deputies in organizing new Granges, and receive a reasonable compensation from their Pomona Granges.

This we believe to be in harmony with the objects of the Pomona Grange.

We recommend that a special deputy be appointed for every county where Granges exist, and that the lecture work of the State Grange be confined principally to counties where no Granges are now organized. We recommend that a sum not to exceed five hundred dollars, in addition to the amount of the lecture fund left over from last year, be appropriated for lecture purposes, making a total lecture fund of \$620.10.

We would further recommend that the salaries of the Worthy Master, Secretary and Treasurer be the same as last year, and that the editor of the *Grange Visitor* receive six hundred dollars per annum.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. O. LADD, *Chairman*.
W. W. FOSTER,
THOMAS BRABB,
MRS. W. W. FOSTER,
J. S. BURTON,
MRS. C. A. JACOBS,
MRS. THOMAS LANCASTER,
MRS. C. A. UNDERHILL,
MRS. J. J. MURPHY.

Committee.

Report received and considered by sections.

First recommendation relating to lecture work in Pomona Granges. Concurred in.

Second, relating to lecture fund. Recommendation concurred in.

Third, relative to officers' salaries. Recommendation concurred in.

Fourth, relative to the editor of the *Grange Visitor*.

On motion, the recommendation in relation to the salary of the editor of the *Grange Visitor* was referred to the Executive Committee.

The report as amended was adopted.

The Committee on Constitutional Amendments made the following report:

Worthy Master and Members of Michigan State Grange:

Your Committee on Constitutional Amendments having considered the proposed amendments submitted to the State Grange for ratification or rejection, report as follows:

First—Amend Art. VII of the constitution of Subordinate Granges by adding thereto the following: "Provided that the State Grange shall have the power to reduce the fee within their own jurisdiction to any sum not less than one dollar."

Your committee recommend its adoption.

Second—Under the head of District and County Granges. Amend by striking out the words, "not to exceed one in each county," where they occur in second line of said article.

Your committee recommend it do not pass.

Third—Amend Art. XIV by striking out the words “three-fourths,” where they occur in third line in said article and insert in lieu thereof, the words, “two-thirds”

Your committee recommend its adoption.

Fourth—Amend Art. VII by adding, “provided that the membership fee for children, under the age of 21, of members shall be \$1.00.

Your committee recommend it do not pass.

S. A. CADY, *Chairman*,
JOSEPH SHAW,
L. L. PLOWMAN,
D. W. REED,
JOHN MCPHERSON,
JOSEPH DONALDSON,
MRS. DRESSER,
MRS. HALL,
MRS. REED,
MRS. MCPHERSON,
Committee.

Report received, the recommendations concurred in, and the report adopted.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Bro. Ackmoody moved to reconsider the vote by which this Grange decided to hold a public meeting.

Carried.

Bro. Cox moved the public meeting be indefinitely postponed.

Motion prevailed.

Bro. Hewitt moved President Willits be invited to address this Grange at half past seven this evening.

Motion prevailed.

The Worthy Master appointed the Worthy Overseer a committee to notify President Willits.

Bro. Horton moved the installation of officers be made the special order for this evening, immediately after Pres. Willit's address.

Carried.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS.

Bro. Jason Woodman presented a petition relating to the agricultural department at the Agricultural College.

Received and referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

At this time his excellency, Gov. Luce read a greeting from Texas State Grange, as follows:

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE TEXAS STATE GRANGE, PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY:

To all whom these Presents shall come—Greeting:

Know ye, that I, A. J. Rose, Worthy Master of the Texas State Grange, reposing special trust and full confidence in the integrity and ability of C. G. LUCE, of Lansing, State of Michigan do, by virtue of the authority vested in me by law, constitute and appoint him as representative of the Texas State Grange near Michigan State Grange, to convey to that body our fraternal greetings, with the assurance of the hearty co-operation of the fraternity throughout this jurisdiction, in the grand work we have undertaken, as enunciated by the National Grange, Patrons of Husbandry.

In Testimony Whereof, I hereto sign my name, at Town of Salado, Bell County, Texas, the sixth day of December, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eighty eight, and of our order the twenty-second.

A. J. ROSE.

Worthy Master Texas State Grange.

Received and referred to committee on Resolutions.

Bro. Woodman, Past Master of the National Grange was called to the chair and the Grange listened to remarks from Bro's Woodman and Mars. After which the Grange took a recess untill half past seven this evening.

Carried.

EVENING SESSION.

At half-past seven o'clock the Worthy Master introduced President Willits of the Agricultural College, who spoke substantially as follows:

Worthy Master and Patrons:

The first time I visited Washington, I had what was then the same sentiment that generally existed against the Agricultural Bureau of the Government,—that it was a place for raising “pumpkin seeds.” But during the two or three weeks that I was visiting the city, being acquainted with Roland E. Trowbridge, long a resident of this State and member of Congress from this State and I believe at that time Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, I frequently fell in with him, and incidentally made some remark disparaging of the Agricultural Bureau. He says, “Mr. Willets, you are entirely mistaken in your ideas of that bureau. Do you know what the department is doing or attempting to do?” “Why, no,” I had to tell him. He says, “please go there with me then;” and I visited the department; I was very much surprised at what I found. He informed them that I was a little skeptical in regard to their work, and I asked them what good they were doing, what they were accomplishing, what good it

was to be sending forth seed throughout the country. They said, "Within the last five years, we have been instrumental in distributing a certain kind of oats through the northern States; now all we ask of you is to just bear that in mind. We tell you that before we introduced those oats, the average of the crop of oats was, say, 30 bushels to the acre; since sending out those oats, the average crop is 40 bushels to the acre. Now investigate it, satisfy yourself on this question." And I was so impressed with their earnestness that I did give some attention to it, and I became satisfied, thoroughly and positively satisfied, that in the great belt of the temperate zone of this United States, properly speaking the northern States, the great amount of oats per acre had been raised 10 bushels by the introduction of that quality of oats. While the oats would have been introduced in some other manner perhaps, and probably, yet we anticipated it five years, and added ten bushels to the acre for five years; and have not we paid for this department every dollar that it has cost from the time of its organization to the present time?

When I went to Washington in 1877 in a public capacity, I had become fully impressed, notwithstanding all the mistakes the department has made, all of the fruitless experiments that they had fostered, that in its success it had accomplished a benefit that more than compensated for the expense to the government. And during the six years I spent there, I became more impressed with its importance, so that, when I laid down my official duties, I was warmly in sympathy with the Agricultural Department, and as such, in sympathy with the new work that I had taken up.

At the first convention of Agricultural Colleges in Washington in 1885, there was an assault made upon the Department of Agriculture, and I recollect we had Coleman in the chair at that time, and one of the most bitter assailants was from a gentleman from California, claiming that there was poor seed sent to California, and he was so fierce that he impressed even the Commissioner himself. I said, "May I ask the gentleman from California a few questions?" He said I might, and I said "I would like to ask this gentleman if it is not true that a certain time (giving date), there were two bushels of wheat that had been sent to California, and that on trial it was found that that was just the kind of wheat that California needed, and that wheat has raised the production five bushels to the acre?" He said, "I must confess it is so." "What has it been worth to California?" I asked him. "One or two million of dollars," he said. "Don't you know that when that wheat was sent over the country to California from Washington, it lay in the postoffice (which was a corner grocery store) for months, and no one would touch it because it came from the 'Pumpkin seed department,' until finally an old farmer from one of the valleys said he would 'take it off the postmaster's hands for him,' and he found it was just what that climate needed?" He admitted that what I said was true, and I said, "Let me ask you another question: You have oranges in California; what is the best orange you have?" He said it was a slip sent from the Agricultural Department, the Riverside Orange. I asked him what that slip was worth to California; well, he said he did not know, but he would not have it taken away for a million dollars. "Now," I said, "gentleman from California, what have you to say about the distribution of seeds in California?" "But they are not careful enough," he said, "we are afraid they will send us some insect that

will destroy our fruit or our crop. The coddling moth even came from Michigan, and it was a lively insect because it did come from Michigan. Some people out in California thought it would be so nice to have some Michigan apples; so they sent to friends in Michigan for a barrel of apples, and when the apples came they ate them and instructed the servants to burn the cores so that no insect should get into California, but the servants did not burn the cores, they fed them to the hogs, and thus the cuddling moth got into California. You say you have diseases of crops, did you get them from Washington? No. Now my dear sir, these insects and diseases are going to be with you, they will come any way, and you must fight them just as we do in Michigan."

So I say in a general way, the Department of Agriculture has justified itself, although it has frittered away thousands and thousands of dollars.

Now this same spirit of experiment—for it was experiment to get those foreign oats in Michigan, it was experiment to send foreign wheat over into California, it was experiment to send over this slip of orange—the same is becoming more general. Ninety-nine out of every one hundred experiments fail. I understand that Governor Luce talked to you in a general way and said that experiments in agriculture had been the growth of 20 years. It has. In fact there are few agricultural experiments a quarter of a century old. At the time the land grant was given to the State, experiments were simply hinted at, but the prime object was educational.

The Agricultural Colleges were started having nothing whatever to do with experiments, except incidentally. The Agricultural College in Michigan was so organized, but people began wanting experiments, and this branch kept growing and growing on our hands until finally we found it was a grand purpose, and we have found all kinds of developement. We found cattle, fruit, farming, in our vegetables, all changing forms and characteristics. What a boom there has been in the cattle industry, in the quantity of milk a cow gives. How has it been brought about? By experiment. Mr. Roberts, of Cornell University, has been experimenting on the subject of milk; he experimented until he became satisfied that a cow that did not produce over 4,000 pounds of milk, he would almost give away because she did not any more than pay for the keeping of her. "What do you do with such a cow?" I asked him. "Sell her for beef; or I can find plenty of men who think a cow is a cow anyway and will buy her; so if a cow gives less than 7,000 pounds, I sell her."

Two years ago at a meeting of Cornell University, a paper was read upon how they had, by experiment, increased the quantity of milk, of herds of cattle. How they had taken a herd that would produce say four or five thousand pounds, and give a herd that would produce from eight to thirteen thousand pounds of milk. I said to the writer of that paper the other day, when I met him, "Mr. Powell, I was very much pleased with what you said as to how you increased the quantity of milk the cows gave, and I wish to say that if we should have the cattle institute in the State of Michigan, we wish all the people from all parts of the State to be there, I want to get you to come and talk to us." He says, "We are trying another experiment now. We have found we can produce a great deal of milk, but the quality is not what we would like, and now we are trying to put some cream into it." Speaking

to Governor Luce about it, he said, "I think he is a very sensible man, but I would rather wait until he can bring some of the cream along with him." The great question is, How have they got these special breeds? What was it about the Jersey, about the Short-horn? Who made them? So the question grows.

So far as our experiments are concerned in the college, it was such a growing question that our funds were insufficient. The great question was whether we could not establish a grand system of experiments in the United States. In the last session of Congress that I was there, a bill was introduced, and has been introduced again and again; I spent two weeks the first winter, two weeks the second winter and the last winter, pressing this bill. The great question came up in the first place, Ought we to foster agriculture in this way? Ought we to select out any particular branch of industry and give it special advantages? Is it in the province of the State or of the United States to take any branch of industry and select it out and make experiments in it, any more than other branches? Yes, for there is an uncertainty about agriculture which makes it different from any thing else. A mechanic can make an article and when it is finished, it is just as he expected it would be; the mechanic can get the results he is after. The carpenter can build a house, and when that house is done it comes out just as he intended it should. The watch maker can make a watch that will keep time so as not to vary a second in months. The mathematician can make reasonably accurate mathematical calculations. But there is no accuracy in the question of agriculture. There is no living man that can, in two years in succession, produce just so many bushels of wheat, or take two fields of exactly the same kind of land and produce the same results on each. What with drouths and dry seasons, bad harvesting, bad luck, etc., there is an uncertainty about agricultural experiments that differs from anything else. And there is the vast interest at stake with this as with nothing else. We thought, this interest is so much greater, and the uncertainty so much larger, we will try and get Congress to help us. So we went to Congress. Why not go to this State for aid? We did to a certain extent. At one of the meetings of the Cattle Association here, it was suggested that the College ought to take certain breeds of cattle and keep them just alike a certain number of years and then slaughter them and see what they would weigh on the block. They were so generous under the impulse of the moment that the Short-horn cattle men said "We will give you a couple of short-horns," and the Jersey men said, "We will give you a couple of Jerseys," and so on they were going to donate to the College for us to experiment on. So we went to the Legislature and got them to give us money to carry our experiments out; but when we went out to claim the cattle, "That calf was so nice, they didn't want to give that away," and "That heifer they couldn't spare," so we did not get any cattle. Well, that was all right. If the Agricultural College is to make experiments in cattle, let it pick out its own cattle and pay for them like a man. You take a donation from a man, and you are under some kind of obligation to favor his cattle a little. So we make up our minds to go and buy the cattle. This branch kept growing, and the expenses became so large we could not carry them; and the Legislature,—of course it is a good Legislature, but the trouble is, that it cannot look far enough ahead, they have not the patience to wait a number of years for

results. Congress looked at it in a fair way, and gave us \$15,000 each year; and the United States of America can afford to wait twenty-five years for results. The wider the area, the longer they can wait without getting impatient for results. And we want twenty-five years before we can see what can be accomplished. Ninety nine of those experiments will be money thrown away, but it is the one hundredth that pays for the ninety-nine.

We went and got our \$15,000 a year and then the question was, What shall we do with it? We distributed it as best we could. There are six departments of Agriculture at the College, they are agriculture, horticulture, chemistry, botany, zoology and veterinary. Six departments and all important ones with reference to experiments and instruction in agriculture. So in a certain sense we had it agreed upon a basis of money to be divided between them. A certain amount was set aside for experiments; one thousand dollars was set aside to buy scientific works.

Before we had divided it up among the six different departments we thought for some time of going to the Legislature and asking for a special appropriation, because it had occurred to us that there was a large landed interest in this State that was practically at waste. That is, a large tract of this lower peninsula was sand; and the feeling had come that these sands should be experimented upon and find something that would best grow there; and the people living up at the North became quite clamorous on the subject. We were moved in the matter also by our personal interest, because, unfortunately, we have as our land grant, 30 or 40 thousand acres of that land; and we want to know whether those lands are worth anything. I said to Dr. Beale, "You must find the grass that will grow in these sands." And he has got seed from all countries, he has sent everywhere, all over the world for seed; he has been raking the world with a fine toote comb to get a grass that will grow there. For you get a grass that will grow there and you solve the question. It has been demonstrated that you can raise as fine a crop there as any where; the biggest squash on exhibition at our fair, came from those sands; and they were raised without manuring the ground.

I said to Dr. Kedzie, "You look after the fertilizing of those sands." He has been experimenting only one season, but the reports we get from there are very encouraging. I tell you if you are members of the Legislature or citizens of Michigan, do not put away those lands; because I believe there are persons here to night that, before they have grey hair, will see cattle roaming over those sands, grazing.

I will state here, in short, some of the things we have been doing at the College. Professor Johnson comes first. He has eight varieties of wheat, 25 varieties of potatoes.

In my trip to California, I ran across alfalfa, and became much impressed with it; I found there that they raised seven crops of it a year. The 24th day of December, I passed fields of cocked up alfalfa hay, as nice as you see here in July. They told me that you once seed it and it had roots that would go down 15 feet. Not only that, it would not die out for years; fields fifteen years old did as well as ever. So I came back rather hot on the subject of alfalfa. I said to Professor Johnson, "Why don't you raise alfalfa?" He says clover is good enough; we can rotate with it; alfalfa takes a couple of years to get started." I said, "Suppose a man has a piece of land and don't want to rotate, suppose he

wanted to have a permanent pasture or meadow?" So we have seeded an acre of Orchard grass and alfalfa. The alfalfa will be cut as often as it is necessary, will be weighed and compared with other grass, and he will keep on for fifteen years if need be, until he settles whether alfalfa will do as well here as in California. Now we find to our surprise that alfalfa is one of the most successful grasses we have seeded up there. If the roots will just go down in that sand up North, the sand is valuable.

Now it goes without saying, that our experiment with cattle, are well known in this State, have been watched with a great deal of interest, because the public believe that the results that shall be shown so far as feeding, care, etc., are concerned will be honest. The result was that we kept them three years, took them to the fat stock show, and after exhibiting them, had them slaughtered there on the ground. And not only this, but we sent them to a hotel keeper, and we are going to follow them right on to the grid-iron and see which makes the best steak. And so we have just started in with a new herd. We got twelve steers which we intend to carry through to the third generation. We have cows and heifers which we are experimenting upon with feed, for three weeks feeding them with dry corn, then three weeks with corn stalks.

In the pig pen you will find four pigs, two in a pen, Poland China, Berkshire and Jersey. You will find a sign over each giving name, amount they weighed the 6th day of August, and they will tell you what they weighed last Monday. All this is experiment and it costs money. These all have to be taken care of.

Take eight kinds of wheat, say 40 acres of wheat; it is going to cost money to raise eight kinds of wheat and keep them separate, thrash them separately, and keep in separate bins. Professor Johnson had a chance to sell all his wheat for seed. He gets orders clear from Tennessee for wheat; just the same kind of wheat that we grow in Michigan, they grow in Tennessee.

Now we are going to experiment in the dairy line. We shall be experimenting this winter, and studying this question; we expect to ask the dairymen's association to make suggestions at its next meeting as to what problems are to be solved; and we want to go to work and make cheese.

In the horticultural department we have of apples 345 varieties from grafts of 1886.

What is the object here in this climate, where there is hardly a living peach tree, of trying to do anything with peaches? Why, we want to find a peach tree that will live in this climate. We have got such a tree, but the fruit is poor. Now if Professor Beale or any other man can find a peach tree with a good luscious peach that will grow in this climate, it will be worth more than the college ever cost. He is going to take the flower of one kind and the flower of another, and he thinks he can get the good variety that will live here.

We are trying to get a pear tree that wont have the blight. We are trying to get a plum tree that wont loose its leaves and have blight.

What do you want to cross the squash for? Well, we thought we could take squashes and cross them and *see* the results; whereas with the peach flower, you have to take a microscope to see what you are doing.

The difficulty is, we send out a new variety, and some man

says it is not new, and then we discard it. We commenced with seeds of potatoes.

Then in a little office is our Veterinary surgeon, and he studies actual disease.

I tell you it is a grand thing to have had connection with an Agricultural College! I believe in the Agricultural College; I believe in the impulse it gives young men; taking young men and placing them on the ground floor with experiments, and seeing what nature will do. Let me give you a little illustration: Dr. Beale is teaching botany. He had the class divided into three sections; he says to the first, "Here, bring in a maple leaf, and see what you can see in that," to another, "Bring in an oak leaf and see what difference you find." So placing them on an inquiry. I went into the class one day, and they had the wild onion. The onion was placed in my hands, and I called upon different ones, and each saw something new. Finally no one could see anything more and Professor Beale said, this is very strange; out of nearly one hundred students, there is not one that has discovered that the onion has a taste or a smell. They had been so intent looking at the onion, that they had not thought of nose or taste at all. And it is a good thing to have the young men on the ground floor in these things.

Mankind has been studying up for centuries, and developed grand things, but the great possibilities of the future may be far greater than those yet known.

The entertainment was enlivened with music by the choir and after a pleasant and profitable evening the audience was dismissed.

FOURTH DAY—Morning Session.

FRIDAY, 8:30 A. M.

Grange opened in form with Worthy Master Thomas Mars in the chair.

Journal of yesterday's proceedings read and approved.

Regular order of business taken up.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

Bro. M. Cox, chairman of Committee on By-Laws of Subordinate Granges, made report as follows:

Worthy Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

Your committee on By-Laws of Subordinate Granges, would report as follows: The committee think the by-laws furnished by and along with the State Grange by-laws are sufficient, and if lived up to, are all that are necessary for the successful working of the Order.

The following preamble and resolutions were presented to us for consideration, and your committee report favorably on the same and recommend their adoption.

WHEREAS, There are a number of Pomona Granges in this State that are paying dues to the State Grange, and

WHEREAS, The said Pomona Granges have no means of knowing of the actions of the Subordinate Granges, and consequently, are paying dues to the State Grange on members whose names have been stricken from the rolls of their Subordinate Grange; Therefore,

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of the secretary of each Subordinate Grange to keep a list of members of the Pomona Grange who are members of their Subordinate Grange, and immediately after the death, suspension or expulsion of a member of their Grange who holds membership in the Pomona Grange, to notify the secretary of the Pomona Grange of such fact, so that the name of such deceased, suspended or expelled member shall be stricken from the roll of the Pomona Grange.

M. COX,
HOMER CASE,
GILBERT WALKER,
J. G. AUTHORSON,
MRS. JOSEPH SHAW,
MRS. L. L. PLOWMAN,
MRS. O. L. MURRAY,
Committee.

Report received, adopted and recommendations concurred in.

Bro. Hiram Andrews, chairman of the Committee on Patent Rights, reported as follows:

Worthy Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

Your Committee on Patent Rights, after careful investigation, have been unable to find any new developments in regard to patent rights.

The reasons why our patent laws are unfair and need amending, have been so often brought before this Grange and the Patrons of Husbandry, that a repetition is not necessary at this time.

Every fair man knows that our patent laws are unjust and see the necessity of their being so amended that the innocent purchaser of patented articles may not become liable to pay a royalty thereon.

We have petitioned Congress year after year, have written private letters to our members of both houses at every session for several years past.

A Bill amending the law has passed one house or the other for several years, but presumably from the vast monied interest in patent rights has failed to pass the other.

In view of these facts, your committee would recommend that the Patrons of Michigan continue to write private letters to the members of both houses of Congress, urging the importance of proper legislative action. We would also recommend the passage of a joint resolution by both houses of the Michigan State Legislature requesting our members in the House of Representatives and instructing our senators in the United States Senate to use their influence for the passage of an act amending our patent laws so as to save the innocent purchaser from paying a royalty on patented articles.

We would further recommend, that, whereas the Michigan State Grange has a defense fund in the hands of their Executive

Committee, that no Patron pay a royalty on any patented article until they have first presented the claim through the Secretary, J. T. Gobb, to the Executive Committee of the Michigan State Grange.

Patrons, the price of success in this era seems to be eternal vigilance. Therefore, let us continue to use all lawful means within our power till we secure needed legislation.

HIRAM ANDREWS,
J. G. ROOK,
I. G. SNETHEN,
W. J. TIMMS,
LOREN L. RICHMOND,
L. C. HAINES,
MR. GIFT,
MRS. GIFT,

Committee.

Report received, adopted and recommendations concurred in.

Bro. A. N. Howe, chairman of Committee on Mileage and Per Diem, made report of delegates in attendance with the per diem and mileage to which they are entitled.

Report received, adopted and the Worthy Treasurer authorized to pay the same.

Sister Mayo, from Special Committee on Obituary, read the following:

IN MEMORIAM.

"Put Darden is dead." The words fell upon our ears like lead, and every heart beat a funeral knell, as we tried to realize the fact that our leader had fallen. "The strong staff was broken and the beautiful rod." Can we measure the life that has gone out here, only to take on a brighter lustre in a higher life. The best evidence of his noble life, the best warrant of his effective work as a Patron, is given us in the fact that though the line wavered, it never faltered; though the standard bearer fell, the ensign did not fall. The hand was not cold, ere other hands, faithful, brave and true, took up the work. This is the best evidence of his worth.

Our lives are not measured, neither are they bounded by time. The influences of his life are imprinted upon the life of this nation. Whenever Patrons point the hand upward, indicating an abiding faith in God, the principles of Put Darden's life corroborates his faith in man. Whenever Patrons from retrospection or a looking out into the future, indicate the hope they have in and for humanity; the faithful zeal, the untiring devotion of Put Darden shows his hope in and for the order. Whenever Patrons extend the hand of charity, helping the fatherless and the widow, the knowledge that Put Darden gave time, money and his life, (for he died in the harness,) shows how lavish he was in the giving of his all. Whenever the hand is laid upon the heart indicative of a Patron's fidelity, the knowledge that Put Darden died at his post showed his loyalty to the Order that he loved. He stood at the apex of life, in all the glory of manhood. His sun had cast no backward shadows, with him it was high noon. All the energies

of his life had been given, and the Master said, "It is enough; come up higher." He lived well, he died well.

In our own State, men and women have fallen. To-day we miss the faces of Bro. and Sister Hill. They have long stood in our ranks as the old guard, faithful and tried, lovely and pleasant. In their lives and their deaths they were not long divided.

Another honored member of the Order, an ex-member of the Executive Committee of the State Grange, has also passed over—Bro. Devine. Able and efficient was Bro. Devine. He was well and widely known, occupying many positions of honor and trust, discharging the duties of his office with fidelity. To his memory we will pay a tribute. A faithful Patron, an honored man gone home.

MARY A. MAYO,
MRS. O. M. SYKES,
MRS. J. C. GOULD,
Committee.

Received and unanimously adopted by a rising vote.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

A Brother offered the following resolution from the West Michigan Farmer's Club:

Resolved, That we ask the legislature of Michigan to appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for 1889 and \$8,000 for 1890 for the increase of the number of Farmer's Institutes throughout the State to be expended by the Board of Agriculture and that the secretary send copies to the several Grange and social societies throughout the State and ask their aid in the passage of such an appropriation.

Resolution received and on motion laid on the table.

Regular order of business taken up.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sister Elam Warner, chairman of the Committee on Good of the Order, made partial report as follows:

Worthy Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

Your committee on Good of the Order, to whom was referred numerous petitions and resolutions relating to certain changes in the laws of the State, have had the same under consideration and would refer back for the action of this body, the resolution from St. Joseph County Grange in relation to the reduction of railroad fare to two cents per mile; the petition from Forest Grange, No. 362, in relation to the time of holding the annual township meeting; the resolutions from Adams Grange, No. 286, from Grand Ledge Grange, No. 301, and the resolution of W. A. Lott, all of which relate to taxation, and the resolution of Hiram Andrews, of Orion, relating to the establishment of a business agency in Detroit; also the resolution of B. O. Ackmoody, of Pioneer Grange, No. 431, relating to County and Subordinate Granges, instructing

voters to attend caucuses and nominating conventions, and your committee would ask for further time to complete report.

MRS. LOTTIE M. WARNER,
MRS. LUCINA LEMON,
MRS. N. K. PATTON,
MRS. W. R. SURRINE,
MRS. E. V. E. PRATT,
BRO. CALVERT,
J. J. BENNETT,

Committee.

- 1st. Resolution relating to R. R. fares adopted.
- 2nd. Resolution relating township meeting tabled.
- 3rd. Resolution relating to taxation, adopted.
- 4th. Resolution relating to business agency, tabled.
- 5th. Resolution relating to attending caucuses, tabled.
- 6th. Resolution relating to the appointment of a Legislation Committee, referred to the Executive Committee.

Bro. Hewett, Chairman of Committee on Education read the following report:

To the Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

Your Committee on Education would respectfully submit the following report:

1st. Having under consideration that portion of the reports of the Worthy Master and Lady Assistant Steward relating to Grange reading circles, we most heartily concur in the views that such circles cannot fail to be of immense benefit to the Order, and in the recommendation that more work be done in the line of organizing such circles. We would further recommend the continuance of a committee charged with this special duty.

2nd. Having considered the resolution of Sister Mayo, favoring the placing of a woman on the county school examining committee, we recommend its adoption.

3rd. Having considered the resolution of Traverse District Grange, No. 17, urging the repeal of the law authorizing the Secretary of County Board of School Examiners to visit schools, recommend in lieu of the same, a law transferring the duty of visiting schools from the Secretary of County Examiners to the Chairman of the township inspectors.

4th. Having considered the resolutions of Traverse District Grange, Grove Grange, and Fremont Center Granges, and the recommendation of the Worthy Gate-keeper relative to a uniform system of text books, and the publication of such books by the State; your Committee recommend the following as a substitute:

Resolved, that the Legislature should provide a uniform system of text books for use in the schools of this State.

Having considered the resolution of Traverse District Grange, No. 17, and of Bro. E. V. E. Pratt opposing, and of Bro. Earl H. Dresser and of Bro. A. P. Gray, favoring a change from the district to the township unit system of school government, beg leave to say:

The proposed change was first suggested by the teachers, and has been a subject of study by them ever since, with the result that

they are to-day practically unanimous in their advocacy of the township system. In the investigation of this question, your committee has acted in the capacity of a jury, carefully examining all the evidence obtained and basis its recommendations solely upon the evidence.

Some of the principal facts forming the basis of our recommendation we have collected and herewith present to the Grange without comment.

The primary school interest fund is distributed on the basis of the number of children of school age, the obvious intention being to afford to all equal privileges; in practice it is found that in the wealthy and liberal districts ten months school are had, while in the poorer and more parsimonious districts, only three months schooling is furnished. In 1883-4, sixty-eight districts in the State, with 1,000 children, had no school whatever; one hundred and sixty-nine districts, with 3,000 children, had but three months, and 100,000 children were in districts that maintained school less than the average number of months that school was taught in the country districts of the State. Evidently all the children of the State did not have equal school privileges during that year.

Relative to the tenure of office of teachers we find that in 1886 Calhoun county required 158 teachers, and employed 342, that the average length of school in each district for the year was 8.4 months; and that each teacher employed taught an average of 3.8 months. In Ingham county the number required in these schools was 126, the number employed 290. An average of 8.3 months school in each district during the year, and 3.6 months taught by each teacher employed. This gives an average of two teachers in *every* school during the year, and three in about one-third of them. The ratio of the number required to the number employed is about the same as this throughout the state, the tenure being longer in the newer than in the older counties. Compare this tenure of position in Michigan with that of teachers in those States that have the township district. In Michigan in 1885-6 the number of teachers required to supply the county schools was 6,511. The number employed was 12,046. In Massachusetts the number required was 8,275. Employed, 9,670. In Indiana, required, 9,000. Employed 9,500. It will be seen that in Michigan during the average eight months taught in each of the country districts, there were two teachers for nearly every school, while in the other states referred to but few of the schools employed more than one.

Relative to the cost of the present system we find that the average cost per capita in the country schools of this state for eight months' schooling is \$8.50. In Oakland county five districts with thirty pupils had three months' school, with an average cost of \$3.70 per month for each pupil enrolled, or \$29.60 per capita for eight months. Six districts had four months school, with an enrollment of seventy scholars, at an average cost of \$20 a pupil for eight months. Crawford county had two districts with a census and enrollment of eight children, at an average cost of \$80 per capita for eight months. Another district in the same county had eleven months' school and enrolled seven pupils. The average cost per capita for eight months was \$52.

These cases, it is said, are not peculiar to the counties named. A similar showing might be made from nearly every county in the

In 1886-7 the statistics show that there were two hundred and fifty-four districts in fifty-eight different counties, enrolling less than ten pupils each, and with a total expenditure of \$59,219. The average enrollment for each school was six and a fraction; the number of months taught, five; and the amount of money expended by each district, averaged \$233. This gives a cost of \$7.75 per month for each child enrolled in these schools, or \$62 per capita for eight months. Sixty-two dollars per capita in these districts with less than ten pupils each, as compared with \$8.50 per capita, the average expense in all the country schools of the State.

Relative to the distance scholars will have to go to attend school, we do not see as it can be materially worse under the proposed than under the present system, unless in the case of very small schools which might have to be closed and the children conveyed to other schools. A distinguished teacher estimates that the money saved by the closing of such schools would amply provide for carrying the children to much better ones. Means for conveying pupils to school have been provided in some of the New England States and the plan has proved satisfactory.

The foregoing figures are mainly compiled from the reports to our Superintendent of Public Instruction. Relative to the actual workings of the township system, we make the following extracts from reports of State Superintendents in States where the plan has been adopted. New Hampshire, at the end of one year, makes this showing: Though the sum paid to teachers is \$10,328 less than last year, the average length of the schools has been two weeks more. There has been a more equitable distribution of educational opportunities than formerly, and as a rule, better teachers have been employed. In this State there was a reduction of fifteen per cent. in the number of districts.

In Maine, the township system has been adopted in ninety-two towns. State Superintendent Luce, in his report for 1886, says: "All experience goes to prove beyond possibility of disproof, that schools managed on the town plan are more economically managed, and are in every way more efficient than those managed on the district plan."

Vermont has thirty townships organized into districts. Following are what some of the chairmen of directors reported to the State Superintendent for 1886. Bolton township, after six years' experience, reports: "We like it; our schools are better, it costs less to support them, buildings are kept in better condition, and everybody is satisfied." Middletown adopted the plan in 1873, and reports as follows: "Under the district system had an average of twenty-two weeks' school. Now there are thirty four weeks. School-houses are infinitely better in every respect, and the schools are one hundred per cent. better." Stamford reports: "Schools are the same length and cost ninety cents per week less than before the change." Out of thirty towns reporting, only three directors stated that there was any dissatisfaction with the plan, while nearly every other officer reported the system as satisfactory and the schools much improved.

Commissioner T. P. Stockwell, of Rhode Island, says: "So far as the towns have changed, the people are thoroughly satisfied that they get better schools for less money. I do not believe that there is a single advantage to be gained by the so-called district system, as a system."

Justus Dart, Supt. of Education of Vermont, writes as follows:

"There are in Vermont thirty towns now using this system and it is working well. The old district system has served its day and should be now made to give place to a better. This town system is right in the line of *progress and it cannot be stopped.*"

The Superintendent of Public Instruction informs your committee that of the whole number of townships that have adopted the township system, only one has given it up and returned to the district system. This township was divided by a mountain.

You will notice that the evidence thus far presented is furnished by persons engaged in school work. Let us now turn to the Grange in States where the township system has been adopted and learn from it whether or not the system meets the approval of farmers. A Patron in this State, Nov. 17, 1888, addressed the following to the master or secretary of ten State Granges:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—The teachers of this State are moving to secure a township system of school government. I enclose circular issued by our Superintendent of Public Instruction, setting forth objections to the present and benefits claimed for the proposed system. As the proposed change is almost certain to come up for discussion in our State Grange, which meets the second Tuesday of December, I would like such information as you may be able to give as to the working of the township system in your State. I would like especially to learn if the benefits claimed in the circular are warranted by the test of experience; also, whether the township system is satisfactory or not to farmers and others in the rural districts.

A brief statement of general facts will be sufficient to enable us to judge whether the proposed system is likely to prove more satisfactory to our farming population than the district system we have now.

ROBERT L. HEWITT, *Secretary,*

To the foregoing letter, eight replies have been received. Of these, six favor the system prepared for this State. Indiana alone condemns the system. In this state the schools of each township are practically under the control of one man, a condition that could not fail to create dissatisfaction.

Your committee take the following from the replies received: Brother F. A. Allen, Secretary of the Maine State Grange, says: "We formerly worked under the old district system, but now nearly all our large towns and cities have adopted the town system. Our laws are such that each town or city can adopt the new system or not, just as the people wish. I have watched the workings of our new system closely in this county and do not hesitate to say that it is an improvement on the old system, and I think it is gaining in favor with the smaller towns, and each year sees more adopting the new system. Formerly the smaller districts were obliged to have short terms and poor teachers, now all fare alike. * * * In our State Grange two years ago, many advocated a change in the law, so that each district would be obliged to adopt the new system, but the legislature decided not to change the law."

Brother J. W. Murphy, Secretary of the Iowa State Grange, says he is decidedly in favor of the township system. He states that ten of the thirteen objections to the district system as presented by Superintendent Estabrook are certainly true, and that seven of the benefits claimed by Prof. Estabrook are certainly cor-

rect and four others may be. In this State all the schools are organized on the township plan.

Brother J. N. Hale, Master of the Connecticut State Grange, says: "I am greatly pleased to know that Michigan is making a move in the right direction in the management of her schools, and more than pleased to know that the matter will be discussed in your State Grange next week. The consolidation of school districts into one township district is optional with the towns in our State, made so four years ago, and about one-fourth of the towns in the State have adopted the township system *greatly* to their satisfaction. For the same amount of money they get *better schools, because* less nepotism in the selection of teachers and fewer changes."

Your Committee have now presented evidence of the evils of the present system obtained from a study of the school statutes of this State; also evidence of eminent educators, relative to the practical working of the township system in States where it has been adopted; and lastly the testimony of the most prominent Patrons in some of these States upon the same question. This evidence all points in one direction, in favor of the township, and against the district system of school government. When the two have been tried the views of Patrons coincide with the views of teachers, that the township is the better system.

Your Committee wish to state frankly that no attention has been given to what may be termed the details of the township system. The sole aim has been to getting facts. We know that if a law can be framed that will give satisfactory results in other States, one can be for this State. From the evidence given the duty of your Committee is clear. It cannot recommend the adoption of the first two resolutions read, opposing a change in our present system. To do so, would be to take for naught incontrovertible facts and figures, and to seek to throw the influence of this State Grange across the line of progress in school work.

We recommend the adoption of the following preamble and resolution:

WHEREAS, Believing that the efficiency of district schools might be greatly increased by proper Legislation, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this State Grange earnestly recommend the passage of a law, providing for the establishment of the Township Unit System, of school government, so drafted, as to leave it optional with each township, to be decided by the electors at any annual township meeting, whether or not such system should be adopted in said Township.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ROBERT L. HEWITT, *Chairman*.
MRS. O. M. SIKES,
WM. D. BABCOCK,
MRS. P. A. PASSMORE,
MRS. A. P. GRAY,
MELVIN S. SMITH,
MRS. E. O. LADD.

Report received and considered in sections:

1st. Recommendations relating to reading circles concurred in.

2nd. Recommendation relative to school examiners concurred in.

3rd. Recommendation relative to school law concurred in.

4th. Recommendation relative to text books concurred in.

5th. Before the recommendation relative to changing the school district to the township unit system was acted upon, Bro. Ladd offered as a substitute the following minority report.

Worthy Master and Members of Michigan State Grange.

Your Committee on Education respectfully beg leave to make the following minority report. We as members of this Committee on Education fully coincide in the report of the chairman, with the exception of that part of the report which recommends a change from the present system of schools to a Township system. We have considered the different resolutions presented to the Committee on this subject mentioned in the chairman's report, with the following resolution offered by Brother E. V. E. Pratt:

Resolved, That the Michigan State Grange earnestly protests against changing the present system of school districts to that of a Township system.

We therefore report this resolution back, with the recommendation that it be adopted.

W. A. LOTT,
MRS. W. A. LOTT.

On motion, the substitute was laid on the table. The fifth recommendation was also laid on the table, and the report was then adopted.

Moved to take recess till 1:30.

Carried.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

On reassembling, the Worthy Master imparted the annual word to representatives present, and made rulings on questions brought up for his decision.

Bro. Timms, chairman of Committee on By-Laws of State Grange, read his report as follows:

Worthy Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

Your committee on By-Laws of State Grange, respectfully report that no reference has been made to any part thereof by this honorable body, to this committee, therefore we conclude the present by-laws meet the requirements of the Order at the present

time, and after a careful examination of the same, deem it inexpedient to make any change.

Respectfully submitted.

W. R. SIRRINE,
MRS. L. M. HOLTON,
JAMES E. WEBB,
MRS. W. D. BABCOCK,
MARTIN C. BREST,
MRS. A. W. SHERWOOD,
MRS. J. J. MURPHY,
Committee.

Report received and on motion adopted.

Bro. Dowling, chairman of Committee on Agriculture, reported as follows:

To the Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

But few resolutions or work of a special character have been assigned to this committee, yet we feel that our work is of the utmost importance. Our labors are in a field of unlimited extent, and we deem it our duty to report upon a few of the most prominent points relating to agriculture, for your consideration.

Believing, as we do, that education is not only the cornerstone of the republic, but that it also lies at the very foundation of our success as farmers, any means tending towards its advancement is most earnestly recommended. The Agricultural College of Michigan is doing a grand and noble work in this field. Its efforts in developing and preparing young men for practical agriculturists and influential citizens, are most highly appreciated.

The bill now pending before the United States Senate, to make the Commissioner of Agriculture a member of the Cabinet, has passed the house by a good majority, but its rejection by the senate we most emphatically censure. Our interests demand that this bill be passed at the present session of Congress.

We recommend the efforts of the Signal Service of the State and we believe that it is of great value to agriculture and that it can be made much more efficient.

We have the satisfaction to report that several matters, which have, from time to time, been recommended by former committees, are now secured, and the farmers of the country are now receiving the benefits. Not the least of these is the experiment station. We desire to express our appreciation of the work at Grayling and other points.

Otsego and the adjoining counties, north, east and west, in spite of the long winters, have peculiar natural advantages and are destined, in the near future, to become a fine agricultural district.

The principal drawback in these counties is the apparent worthlessness of the soil in the region along the line of the Michigan Central Railroad, most of the way from Bay City to Gaylord. If it can be demonstrated by experiment that those sand plains, by any process or system of cropping, can be made to repay the labors of the husbandman, an incalculable benefit will be conferred on northern Michigan and upon the agriculture of the state in general.

We recommend that the Master of the State Grange appoint some person of ability to attend the coming session of the legisla-

ture, whose business it shall be to look after our interests as recommended in the able report of the Worthy Overseer, and that suitable compensations be made for such services.

The influence of trusts and combinations is detrimental to our interests and calculated to prey upon the products of the soil. Hence we, as farmers, denounce the whole scheme and will use our influence to have our representatives in Congress enact such laws as will effectually relieve us from this evil.

As all classes of our people are affected by the adulteration of food, we ask for the enactment of a law forbidding such adulterations, with adequate penalties.

We recommend that the tax law be so amended that each person be taxed on the property he owns and no more.

We respectfully ask that the appropriation for Farmer's Institutes be increased from \$600 to \$2,000 yearly.

Your committee has considered the resolution submitted to it, relative to an appropriation of \$3,000 to provide for a new building for the use of the agricultural department of the college and recommend its adoption.

All of which is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

P. H. DOWLING, *Chairman*,
NATHAN STOVER,
JOSEPH GLASSON,
ELLIOTT H. ANGELL,
HOSEA COX,
JAMES HALEY,
MRS. EDWIN FELLOWS,
MRS. H. ANDREWS,
MRS. N. L. PARMETER,

Committee.

Report received and on motion adopted.

Sister Gunnison, from Committee on Dormant Granges, made report as follows:

Worthy Master and Fellow Patrons:

This one feature, the Dormant Grange, is one of the greatest puzzles we have to encounter, especially to those who have the best interests of the organization at heart, those who are stirring live Patrons, those who can plan and work. It is such as these that wonder most why we have these obstacles to encounter. When we are aware of the fact that the Grange is the only organization for the farmer, that has both a State and National reputation to back it, the greatest one whereby the tillers of the soil may better their condition, may become better citizens, better enabled to transact their own individual affairs and fit them to stand on an equal footing with their brothers and sisters of other vocations and not to be content to allow them to stand in advance of us. We feel assured that no Order can spring up to supercede the Patrons of Husbandry. If all would live up to the solemn obligations they take when they unite with this noble Order, there never could be such a thing heard of as a Dormant Grange to blot the record of our history. Now, why do we have Dormant Granges? There is in every hive drones, and every Grange can be likened to a hive, the more drones in a Grange hive, the greater its downward tendency. If we should elect for our Master a drone, the result must

necessarily be any thing but prosperity. The other officers will catch the spirit and there will be a gradual falling off that will eventually work ruin. The master being the highest officer, look well to it that you get a live, energetic Patron to fill this position. We recommend educating the young members by giving them official position all along the line, with the exception of the Master. That chair should be filled by an experienced and a more aged member, unless you have an unusually bright and energetic young man or woman who will creditably fill this position. One other element we should strive against is, never to allow opposing parties in entertainments or general Grange work. They will naturally work against one another, and, according to the old saying, the large fish will eat up the small ones, and the tendency will be to work ruin. It is better to compromise even though you may have to give up some pet idea. We recommend for the method of reviving dormant Granges a good stirring lecture from some live, energetic Patron, have it well advertised and not be content with one, if the desired results are not reached, but try, try again. We think this work should be the work mainly of Pomona Granges and they should also plan their meetings as near these desert places as possible. It is the mission of our separate Granges to benefit one another, so it is with Pomona Granges and as they occupy a broader field of labor they can better reach these places. We should always exercise charity, we are each day sowing seed either for good or evil, which sooner or later will bear fruitage according to its cultivation and growth.

"We reap ourselves the joy and fear,
Of which this coming life is made,
And fill our future atmosphere
With sunshine or with shade.

The tissues of the life to be,
We weave in colors all our own,
And in the field of destiny,
We reap what we have sown."

In every dormant Grange there is still left sparks which only need re-kindling to make bright and shining lights and the more they are kept together the brighter they are, scatter them and they become cold and lifeless.

All of which the Committee respectfully submit.

MRS. AMANDA GUNNISON,
LEWIS G. LEMMON,
JAMES COUSINS,
BENJAMIN D. ACKMOODY,
MRS. D. D. COOK,
MRS. D. H. ENGLISH,
DELIA B. FISKE.

Report received and unaimously adopted.

Bro. W. T. Adams, chairman of Committee on Legislative Action, made the following report:

Your Committee on Legislative Action have had a large amount of matter referred to them, to the consideration of which we have given our best attention under the circumstances surrounding us.

Therein and herewith we report the resolutions and papers referred to us with our action.

A resolution referred to your committee from St. Joseph County Grange reads as follows:

1. *Resolved*, That St. Joseph County Grange, No. 4, use its influence to prevent the enacting of any law having for its object the repealing of our present school system and substituting therefor a law making each township a unit district.

Your Committee placing a high estimate upon the educational advantages of our state, deem it inexpedient to change from our present system to one the practical workings of which we know but little, and we recommend the adoption of the resolution.

Your committee further recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The present statutory law relating to the transmission of messages by telegraph and telephone companies does not afford the public sufficient protection; Therefore, be it

2: *Resolved*, That the Michigan State Grange, through the proper channel, ask the next State Legislature to pass a law making all telegraph and telephone companies doing business in this State, common carriers, and as such liable for all damages for failure or neglect in properly transmitting or delivering messages.

We further report the following from Forest Grange, No. 362, Mecosta County:

3. *Resolved*, That the game laws relating to the killing of game in Michigan are unjust and unfair to the average laboring individual; Therefore,

Resolved, That we ask that the time be extended one month, and that this body take such action as shall bring this before our legislative bodies. Your committee are of the opinion the resolution should be adopted.

The following resolution from Centerville Grange is referred back without recommendations:

4. "Be it *Resolved*, That the constitution of the United States be so changed that the president, vice-president and senators be elected by the popular vote."

The following in regard to taxation of mortgages:

WHEREAS, At the last session of the legislature, a law was passed to tax mortgages. The real estate on which the mortgage is placed is also taxed; Therefore,

5. *Resolved*, That real estate having a mortgage thereon, that the amount of mortgage be deducted by the supervisor in taking the assessment. Your committee realizing the manifest injustice of our present tax law, recommend that our next legislature be petitioned to so amend our tax law that the people will not be assessed and required to pay taxes on their indebtedness on real estate.

6. *Resolved*, That the railroads of this state should be compelled by law to sell thousand mile tickets good over any road in this State at a rate not exceeding two cents per mile.

Your committee recommend that the resolution do not pass as we believe it to be an unjust discrimination in favor of those who travel most and are the best able to pay usual rates, and further, we believe that with the present development of the railroad system in our State, that we are justified in asking and that the interests of the people demand a uniform rate over all lines of road in our State not to exceed two cents per mile, and that such action should be taken by this body as will bring this matter properly before our next legislature.

7. *Resolved*, By Gratiot Pomona Grange, No. 36, that the law creating the board of review should be repealed, and that the State Grange be requested to furnish blank petitions to the Subordinate

Granges for signatures to be presented to the next legislature asking for the repeal of said law. Your committee recommend the adoption of the same.

LANSING, Mich., December, 1888.

To the State Grange of Michigan:

8. *Resolved*, That this Grange petition the legislature of this State to enact a law to compel the flouring mill owners to take toll instead of making the exchange, and thereby evade the law fixing tolls for grinding grain.

Your committee have no practical solution of this question, but are ready to endorse any feasible plan to relieve ourselves from these unjust exactions, and recommend the adoption of the resolution.

9. *Resolved*, By Traverse District Grange, No. 17, that we urge that the time for collecting taxes be extended to March 1, and that the township treasurer be allowed a fee of one per cent up to February 1. Your committee return this resolution without recommendation.

WHEREAS, The use of barbed wire is dangerous to stock: therefore,

10. *Resolved*, That we demand that the fence law be so amended that it cannot be used for railroad, line or partition fence except by consent of all parties interested. Your committee recommend its adoption.

11. *Resolved*, By Branch County Pomona Grange, that the State Grange be requested to take such action as may tend to secure sundry appropriations and legislation by the next legislature by means of which the various counties of this State shall be assisted in holding Farmer's Institutes annually. Your committee do not recommend the adoption of this resolution, hoping to secure the same benefits through our County and Subordinate Granges, without the aid of special appropriations or legislation.

12. "*Resolved*, That the creation of so-called trusts be made a felony." The committee recommend the adoption of this resolution.

CENTERVILLE, Dec. 6, 1888.

We, the members of St. Joseph County Grange, No. 4, believing that a constitutional local option law would be of universal benefit to the people of Michigan, therefore,

13. *Resolved*, That we ask or petition the legislature of 1889 to pass a constitutional local option law. Recommended by your committee for adoption.

14. *Resolved*, That the State Grange ask the legislature to so amend the interest laws of the State as shall make it usury to collect more than the legal rate of interest, either directly or indirectly by discount or commission. Your committee consider the resolution a just and equitable measure for the protection of the debtor class and recommend its adoption.

15. "*Resolved*, That the principle of the short haul section of the inter-state commerce act should be incorporated into a state statute so as to be applicable to railroads wholly within this State." Your committee submit this resolution without recommendation, as it is a question whether in some cases this might not seem arbitrary, as the expense of handling might exceed the usual rates of transportation.

To the Members of Michigan State Grange, P. of H.:

16. *Resolved*, That we ask our next legislature to so amend our

present drain law by leaving it optional with each county to borrow money for the construction of drains within their jurisdiction for a period of years, to be levied and paid by those benefitted, in annual installments; also the present method of obtaining the right of way is complicated and needs legislative action. Submitted without recommendation.

The following resolutions were offered by J. C. Dougherty:

17. *Resolved*, That we recommend that taxation be equalized, and all existing laws that tend to favor classes be repealed.

18. *Resolved*, That we recommend that postal banks be organized in every county in the union.

19. *Resolved*, That in any readjustment of the tariff, the rights of agriculture be respected. Signed, J. C. Dougherty. The committee recommend their adoption.

To the Worthy Master and Members of Newaygo County Pomona Grange, No. 11:

20. Your committee to whom was referred the question of "Combinations" and "Trusts," have taken the subject matter under consideration, and respectfully submit the following for your consideration:

Resolved, That the "Combinations" and "Trusts" that have covered our fair land like the locusts of Egypt, are offenses against the best interests of society and should be prohibited by law.

Resolved, That in its practical effects, the "Trust" is as much a conspiracy as the "Boycott," that it is disastrous alike to agriculture and to labor in all its branches, and that immediate special effective legislation is required.

Resolved, That we ask our delegates from this county to memorialize the State Grange in relation to these "Trusts" and "Combinations," and ask them in their wisdom to devise some means, either to properly regulate, or wholly suppress the extortionate power by which they are at present enabled to deprive industry of its just rewards.

M. W. SCOTT,
L. F. KEENEY,
A. O. WHITE,

Committee.

The committee recommend the adoption of these resolutions.

Resolved, By Hesperia Grange, No. 495, that we heartily concur in the spirit of the resolution adopted by Pomona Grange, No. 11, relative to the combinations of capital, known as "trusts."

Resolved, That this new form of "giant monopoly" should be effectually and speedily suppressed by law; and that the Grange, in its local, as well as State and National organizations, should use every honorable means to secure the legislation necessary for their suppression.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be placed in the hands of the delegates from this county, and that they be requested to urge the importance of definite and decisive action by the State Grange at its session in December next. Your committee recommend the adoption of these resolutions.

Your committee invite the earnest and thoughtful attention of this State Grange to that portion of the Secretary's report calling our attention to the fact that very much of our work at these sessions in presenting matters requiring legislative action, is lost, from the fact that the work is not properly carried out in the pres-

entation of these matters before our legislative bodies. It is plain that we may resolve and re-resolve without avail. To secure the desired result, we must press the matter to a final issue. Your committee desire to call the attention of the Executive Committee of this Grange to the suggestions contained in that portion of the Secretary's report, referring to compensation and duties of a legislative committee, and hope they may perfect some plan at once to bring all matters presented and endorsed by this Grange for legislative action before that body at its next session. That portion of the Worthy Master's address referring to Trusts, directs our attention to the encroachments of a grasping and insidious foe, whose exactions are hourly becoming more and more oppressive, demanding tribute of all and every interest of the people to gratify its insatiate love of gain—robbing the many to enrich the few. Our interest centers in the masses and we deny the right of any man or set of men to gamble in the essential elements of life, creating speculative and exorbitant prices; and further that it should be the privilege secured to all to purchase in open market any article desired, the price to be governed solely by the law of supply and demand. In this hour of peril it becomes us, as well as all lovers of justice and equity, and all who take an interest in the development of the industrial interests of our land, to be up and doing with a force and power that shall make itself felt without abatement till relief is obtained, and a position of safety secured. If we fail to do this, we are recreant to duty and will be humiliated and dishonored by seeing this fair fabric of self government based upon the broad and generous principles of constitutional liberty and justice, stranded and wrecked upon the shoals of oppression and injustice.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. T. ADAMS,
D. H. ENGLISH,
E. STOFFER,
N. K. POTTER,
THOS. E. COONY,
ELBRIDGE FRANKLIN,
A. M. WELLS,
RICHARD NUGENT,
MRS. R. NUGENT,
HENRY J. HALL,
Committee.

Report received and considered by sections as numbered.

- Sec. 1. Relating to school system. Tabled.
- Sec. 2. Relating to telegraph and telephone. Concurred in.
- Sec. 3. Relating to game laws. Concurred in.
- Sec. 4. Relating to elections. Tabled.
- Sec. 5. Relating to taxation. Concurred in.
- Sec. 6. Relating to railroad tickets. Recommendation concurred in.

- Sec. 7. Relating to boards of review. Concurred in.
 Sec. 8. Relating to mill owners taking toll. Concurred in.
 in.
 Sec. 9. Relating to time for collecting taxes. Tabled.
 Sec. 10. Relating to barbed wire fence. Tabled.
 Sec. 11. Relating to Farmer's Institutes. Tabled.
 Sec. 12. Relating to trusts. Adopted.
 Sec. 13. Relating to local option. Adopted by rising vote.
 Sec. 14. Relating to interest laws. Concurred in.
 Sec. 15. Relating to inter-state commerce. Concurred in.
 Sec. 16. Relating to drain laws. Tabled.
 Sec. 17. Relating to taxation. Adopted.
 Sec. 18. Relating to postal banks. Adopted.
 Sec. 19. Relating to tariff. Adopted.
 Sec. 20. Resolution from Newago County Pomona Grange. Concurred in.

Report as amended adopted.

Sister Adams, Chairman of Committee on Pomona Granges made report as follows:

Your Committee on Pomona Granges submit the following report:

How can we advance the highest interest of the Grange and secure the greatest benefits to our Order? is a question that suggests itself very often to the true Patron and one which your Committee in its endeavor to solve offer the following suggestions, hoping they may meet your approval. Our remarks may not be confined as closely to the Pomona Grange as you would wish, but what is of interest to one Grange is to all, from the Subordinate to the National Grange. "Are we not members of one body?" The good of the whole Grange can be promoted only by advancing the good of each member comprising it.

Have a definite time and place of meeting and elect such members to office as will be prompt as to time and attendance and be most faithful in the performance of duty. Elect members to the office that they are adapted to fill the best, and not elect as Master a man who would make a good Gate keeper or vice versa. For Lecturer, choose a good talker and one who will be thorough in his work. We would especially call attention to Article 12, Section 11, in State Grange By-Laws, which says, "It shall be the duty of the Lecturer of County or District Granges to visit each Subordinate Grange in his jurisdiction, at least once each year, and exemplify and explain the *unwritten* work of the Order, and give such instructions in the written work as, in his judgment, he shall think best suited to its wants and the wants of our Order, and shall report all troubles and grievances that may exist under his jurisdiction, to the County or District Grange, and he may adjust the same, if possible. He shall receive such compensation for said

services as the Grange may direct, to be paid from the Treasury." The latter clause we deem of importance. With many farmers their labor is their capital and though they have the best interests of the Grange at heart and could do effective work, can not afford to do it gratuitously. Select the officers from different parts of the county, thereby giving more general satisfaction; and call on different members to speak and write and get more new ideas. Do not fall into a rut and think there are only a certain few who can fill the offices and act on committees. Bring out the undeveloped talent. The diamonds have not all been found and polished yet, the rarest jewels will bear the hardest grinding and may be the deepest, so search them out and put them to the test, and when they have done their best, if it is a *failure* the first time, it will *not* be the second. If every member will make it a rule to never make excuses, the Grange will become perpetual. Have meetings if possible every month. At the first meeting in the year locate the places of meeting for the year. Have the evening meetings public and have interesting programs prepared. Have some subject of general interest for discussion and invite those outside the Order to take a part. The County Grange Lecturer can leave it with the Subordinate Grange where the County Grange meets to furnish the program for the evening entertainment, if desirable; or follow the plan of the National Grange and furnish the program quarterly; have them published in the GRANGE VISITOR and try and increase its circulation, we think that though the Pomona Grange we should secure greater pecuniary benefits than we have, and that Patrons should try and co-operate with other farmers to put down milling and other trusts and active to encourage Legislative petitions against the same.

We suggest that the one, whom we wish to recommend to the Worthy Master of the State Grange, to appoint as Deputy Lecturer, be chosen by ballot.

There should be some way to enforce the payment of dues in the Pomona Grange, and we would suggest that it shall be the duty of the Secretary of each Subordinate Grange to keep a list of the members of each Grange who join the Pomona Grange, and immediately after the death, suspension, or expulsion of a member of their Grange who held membership in the County Grange, to notify the Secretary of the County Grange of said fact, that the name of such member may be stricken from the roll. We recommend that it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the County Grange, thirty days prior to the annual meeting of his Grange, to notify all members who are in arrears for dues for more than eleven months; and any member being so notified who shall neglect to pay his or her dues within the next six months, will have caused his own suspension and shall be dropped from the roll. Should the Secretary of the County Grange wilfully neglect this part of his duty, his office may be declared vacant. We feel the necessity of such action, for a dead weight will in time kill the Grange which tries to carry it. We would recommend that all fourth degree members in good standing, especially the young, be invited to visit the Pomona Grange and take a part in its exercises. If they are too timid to respond at first, do not consider you have done your whole duty. They are not with you just to be looked at and never invited again, but take pains to make them feel at home. Try and keep the young hearts happy. It is our great desire that the young should become interested in the Grange, that

they may take our places when we are "called to lay down our implements on earth."

The contest plan has proved so beneficial to the Grange we hope it may be continued and be another means to develop the talent of the young. Teach children self-reliance, not by removing every obstacle before them; they can no more become strong to fight life's battles than the body can acquire strength by never taxing the muscles; there must be exertion to develop the mind as well as the body; teach them to use their own judgment, in fact try and give them the discipline that will bring their common sense to the surface that it may be improved by experience and observation. There are diversities of gifts and places for all to fill.

Visiting other Granges should be encouraged; the Grange is one of our best educators, and is a power for good, broadening the lives of its members; educating them in both heart and mind, giving them social culture and financial benefits that farmers and their wives can secure in no other way. The most of us are past the drill of the school room and must learn life's lessons in other places. If "the proper study of mankind is man," where can we find a better place to study humanity in all its phases than in the Grange? For we all have more or less human nature, and when we realize that we have more rather than less, we exclaim as did Gideon Benitt, "We're all poor critters." We learn in the Grange to settle our differences by arbitration instead of the courts.

The person of impetuous temper learns to exercise such control over himself that he can not only talk mildly on all subjects but listen patiently and courteously to the member who differs from him. The naturally selfish person learns to rejoice in another's prosperity. No one can come within the sacred influences of the Grange and live up to the noble precepts of our Order without receiving benefit. Our actions in the Grange must be just and conform to the Divine teachings if we secure its highest prosperity.

MRS. WM. T. ADAMS,
MRS. HANES CASE,
MRS. T. W. ERNEST,
MRS. MARY A. BURRUS,
MRS. JOS. SMITH.
MRS. S. E. LEE,
MRS. A. T. STARK,
J. J. MURPHY,
E. I. T. PRATT,
S. E. LEE.

Sister Elam Warner, chairman of Committee on Good of the Order, made report:

1. Your Committee on Good of the Order would further report that they have had the several petitions under consideration, asking for a change in the ritualistic work of the Order, whereby the ceremony may be condensed, and would recommend, that inasmuch as a new ritual in which the degrees are conferred on both sexes together, is in print, it would be for the best interest of the Order to test the new one before advising any further change.

2. And, as a diversity of opinion exists among members regarding the admission fee of applicants for membership, your com-

mittee would recommend that the Subordinate Grange fee for gentlemen applicants be \$2.00, and for lady applicants \$1.00, also that the State Grange fee for gentlemen be reduced to 50 cents and for ladies to 25 cents.

3. Your committee in speaking of our "Grange Visitor" would recommend its support, as it gives unmistakable sound in opposition to monopolies and patent right swindles, and that it should be in the home of every Patron in our State with market reports.

The field is broad, and there is no seeming end to the many good things that might be recommended by your committee as they are suggested by reports of the officers of this Grange, a few of which we cannot pass without reference thereto.

4. The contest plan has been fruitful in its results, and should be continued in some form, as the wisdom of each Grange may suggest.

5. Reference has been made to the benefit resulting from close observation of the rules laid down in the Order, and your committee would recommend that the admonition be heeded.

6. The attention of delegates is called to the importance of the entire discharge of their duty in visiting the several Granges and reporting the proceedings of this session of the State Grange.

7. The weather Signal Service should also receive the hearty support of Patrons.

8. Too many good words cannot be said in favor of arranging and economizing work in our lecture field.

9. Allusion has been made to the importance of holding Farmer's Institutes in every county in the State, and we would recommend that the Patrons organize an Institute in every county, as a feature of Grange work, and utilize home talent, thereby elevating and educating the American farmer according to the noble principles of our Order.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

MRS. LOTTIE M. WARNER,
L. LUCINA LEMON,
J. J. BENNETT,
BRO. CALVERT.
MRS. N. R. POTTER,
MRS. W. R. SIRRINE,
MRS. E. V. E. PRATT,

Committee.

On motion, the several recommendations were considered separately.

First recommendation, adopted.

Second recommendation, tabled.

Third recommendation, concurred in.

Fourth recommendation, concurred in.

Fifth recommendation, concurred in.

Sixth recommendation, concurred in.

Seventh recommendation, concurred in.

Eighth recommendation, concurred in.

Ninth recommendation, concurred in.

The report, as amended, was on motion adopted.

Bro. A. P. Gray, chairman of Committee on Co-operation, made report as follows:

Your Committee on Co-operation beg leave to report that they have had under consideration the resolutions presented by St. Joseph County Grange, No. 4, and A. W. Campfield of Grove Grange, No. 528, asking the State Grange of Michigan to impose a duty upon the Executive Committee of the State Grange of making arrangements with manufacturers of agricultural implements, whereby their goods may be purchased at wholesale and that Patrons be notified of their action through the Secretary's office. Your committee recommend the adoption of these resolutions.

Your committee also recommend that Patrons endeavor to carry out the idea of co-operation in a broader sense than heretofore, by creating a feeling of harmony rather than one of antagonism between the local dealer and members of the Order.

And we would particularly advise that Patrons should never boast of having sent to other places for goods, but do it quietly, when necessary, and in a friendly and charitable spirit.

Your committee cannot recommend co-operative stores, in view of the experience of others in the past, neither do we deem it expedient to enter into co-operative associations, for the sake of the profits expected to accrue therefrom, and only where through self-defence it seems to be necessary.

The latter condition appears in our judgment to be the case in regard to converting our wheat into flour, since all the principal millers have joined the gigantic monopoly, called the Flour Trust. It will probably be necessary, and in most cases profitable, to form joint stock companies and build, own and operate our own mills.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. P. GRAY,
JOSEPH SMITH,
MRS. S. A. CADY,
MRS. F. G. TOTTON,
PETER HOLLY,
DR. WILLEY,
MRS. LOREN DAY,

Committee.

Report received and on motion adopted.

By unanimous consent Bro. Stark offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Grange present the name of Hon. J. J. Woodman for the position of Commissioner of Agriculture and that Michigan Representatives in Congress be requested to urge his appointment, as we believe in his hands the interests of agriculture would receive careful and just consideration.

Adopted.

Bro. J. D. W. Fisk, chairman of Committee on Transportation, made report as follows:

Worthy Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

Your Committee on Transportation, would respectfully report. By a little careful reflection, we shall realize the magnitude and importance of this department of our industries and business

facilities. Cheap and rapid transit for the products of our farms, our factories and ourselves is only second to production itself. It is the great equalizer of the business industries of the country, bringing producer and consumer near to each other. It is a fundamental element in the market value of our farm products and in regulating supply and demand. Ample transportation at just and equitable rates enables us to devote our time and energies with a good degree of confidence to increasing the fertility and productivity of our acres, while a lack of transporting facilities or exorbitant tariff charges discourage our efforts and paralyze our energies.

In these latter days the iron steam horse furnishes mainly the transporting power; while the car and the boat give us the wagon supply; this is a marked advance in speed, power and room, vs. the four horse team and Pennsylvania wagon in days of yore. The net work of railroads in this State gives us a transporting medium of 5,700 miles.

The aggregate cost of these roads is placed at over \$240,000,000 which would be an average cost of about \$42,000 per mile.

During the year 1888, these roads employed 21,800 men, while their gross earnings for that year was some over \$30,000,000; the profits or surplus of the roads for that time were nearly \$10,000,000, the taxes paid on these roads for last year was \$715,640 or at the rate of \$126 per mile or 2.31 per cent on the assessed value of the roads. The taxes collected from railroads by the laws of our State are devoted to the support of common schools and added to the interest on the school land fund. These roads are constructed and run under carefully prepared State laws and we believe they are now looked after sharply by a capable and vigilant State Commissioner Hon. John T. Rich. There seem to be at present no very serious evils connected with the transportation system of this State.

There have been no resolutions or petitions presented to this Grange that have been referred to this committee for their consideration. There appear to be good reasons for concluding that the passenger rates on the main lines of our State railroads could safely be reduced with little loss to the roads or at least with no more loss than they could afford.

The unusual readiness of the various roads to furnish excursion rates and 1,000 mile rates and complimentary tickets indicate that lower rates could be afforded, especially if business could be increased, which would be quite sure to follow to some extent.

Two years ago a bill was introduced into our Legislature and passed the house of Representatives, reducing the railroad passenger fare on the trunk lines in this State to two cents per mile.

Your Committee believe that this was a right move, and would therefore recommend that our Legislature be urged to pass such a law at its next session.

Your Committee would also recommend that our railroad laws be so amended that there be less difference in the freight charges on car lots between long and short hauls.

The great battle commenced twelve or fifteen years ago between the Grange and the people versus the railroads, and their extortionate and unjust discriminations culminated two years ago, resulting in a great popular victory, and the inter-state commerce law. Just what will be the full effects of that law, or how much it will need to be modified to effect a full remedy for all the evils complained of, it is too early to determine.

One thing has certainly been settled with great emphasis by that law, and that is, that a united, persistent demand by the people will surely finally triumph. The old maxim, "the voice of the people is the voice of God," has been regarded almost a sacred truth. A natural sequence would be that the voice of the people is nearly omnipotent.

There is scarcely anything less than omnipotence that the people cannot do in this America of ours. Our father's planned this government to be for the people and by the people. Brother's and sister's, let us satisfy this wise and beneficent work of our Puritan fathers, and with jealous care let us ever guard and use this power to advance truth, justice and right.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. D. W. FISK,
EDWIN FELLOWS,
LUMAN JACOBS,
O. L. MURRAY,
JOSEPH GLASSON.

Report received, adopted and recommendations concurred in.

At this time Sister Sykes with suitable remarks presented Bro. Hewett a beautiful book in behalf of the Committee on Education.

Bro. Gunnison, chairman of the Committee on Claims and Grievances, made report as follows:

To the Master and Members of Michigan State Grange:

The Committee on Claims and Grievances have to report not a single case presented them for consideration at this Session of the State Grange, and congratulate the Order of Patrons of Husbandry in Michigan upon the good work being accomplished, and the harmony existing in the Order.

Respectfully submitted.

ALFRED G. GUNNISON,
ASA W. SHERWOOD,
MRS. WM. J. CAMPBELL,
C. W. TAYLOR,
MRS. P. W. ENNEST,
J. DUNWELL.

Report received and on motion adopted.

Bro. Dresser, from Committee on Publication, made report as follows:

To the Officers and Members of the Michigan State Grange.

Your Committee on Publication would report as follows:

1. We recommend that no change be made in the subscription price of the *Visitor*.

2. That a corresponding editor or reporter be appointed in each Subordinate Grange to report items for the welfare of the Grange to the *Visitor*, and further that each Pomona of District Grange make arrangements with the county papers to publish such part of the proceedings of their respective Granges and such other matter

as they may determine for the good of the Order, and that a qualified person be placed in charge of the same.

3. In order to further increase the circulation of our organ we can suggest no better plan than that an earnest, working member in each Grange thoroughly push the solicitation of subscribers for the *Visitor* in and out of the Order.

In some localities where other methods fail an entertainment might be given and the proceeds devoted to supplying all members with the paper.

4. That we deem it best to leave all other questions pertaining to the control and management of the *Visitor* to the Executive Committee where it properly belongs.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

EARL H. DRESSER, *Chairman*.
THOS. LANCASTOR,
C. A. UNDERHILL,
MRS. J. G. ROOKE,
O. L. HOLTON,
MRS. R. H. WILEY.

Report received and on motion adopted.

Bro. Warner, chairman of Committee on Resolutions, reported as follows:

Worthy Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

Your Committee on Resolutions to whom was referred the preamble and resolutions from Berrien Center Grange, No. 14, have had the same under consideration and would recommend its adoption.

WHEREAS, The Agriculturalists of this county are desirous of securing legislation to better protect the masses of the people: therefore,

1 *Resolved*, By this Grange, that we are in favor of the State Grange appointing a Committee on Legislation, to be in attendance at the next session of the Legislature.

Your Committee having also had the resolutions from Van Buren Co. Pomona Grange, No. 13, under consideration would recommend the adoption of the resolution which reads as follows:

2 *Resolved*, That it is the duty of the Legislature to submit to the people a constitutional amendment, prohibiting in incorporating cities and villages, or amending the same, but to provide ample general acts for the same.

Your Committee would report adversely on the following:

3 *Resolved*, That it is the duty of the Legislature to submit to the people a constitutional amendment, limiting the sessions of the Legislature to one hundred and twenty days.

4 *Resolved*, That it is the duty of the Legislature to prohibit by law, according to the true intent of the constitution, the payment to members of their day's allowance during the time they are absent from duty on their individual business, and would recommend that members of the Legislature have a fixed salary for the services of the session.

Your Committee have had the resolution of A. S. Partridge under consideration, which reads as follows, and would recommend its adoption:

5 Inasmuch as it has become the practice so generally in many

of our district and county fairs to sell permits to saloons, games of chance and wheels of fortune, and other schemes of gambling to come into them and thus introducing our families, our sons and daughters, under the name of Agriculture, to scenes that the law prohibits, under the circumstances the State Grange would recommend that all Patrons withhold all products and wares from exhibition in them, and to use all laudable influence in their power to persuade others to do the same until such nuisances be ruled out.

6 Your Committee on Resolutions to whom was referred the greetings of the W. Master of Texas State Grange presented to this body by Bro. Luce, would report the same back with the recommendation that Bro. Luce be authorized to send to Bro. A. J. Rose the fraternal responses of this State Grange now in session.

We would also recommend the adoption of the following resolution of Sister Mayo:

7 *Resolved*, That the Committee to be appointed, to present all Legislative matters from this body and attend to the same at the in-coming session of the Legislature, shall receive for their services all legitimate expenses.

And we would further recommend that the following extract from the report of the Executive Committee assigned us for consideration by the Committee on Division of Labor be adopted as the sense of this State Grange by a rising vote.

8 We most earnestly thank our former Governor for his persistent efforts during the last session of the Legislature in cutting down unnecessary appropriations, and calling a halt to undue extravagance, and we most emphatically approve of his veto of the so-called university bill for the reasons set forth in his message.

ELAM WARNER,
JOHN T. LYKE,
MRS. ELIAS STAUFFER,
MRS. J. S. BURTON,
MRS. CALVERT,
MRS. F. L. KENNEY,
F. L. KENNEY.

Considered by sections.

First recommendation adopted.

Second recommendation concurred in.

Third recommendation concurred in.

Fourth recommendation adopted.

Fifth recommendation adopted.

Sixth recommendation adopted.

Seventh recommendation concurred in.

Eighth recommendation concurred in.

Report received and motion adopted.

A Brother moved the exemplification of the unwritten work be made the special order for eight o'clock this evening
Carried.

Sister Sykes moved the W. C. T. U. be tendered a vote of thanks.

Unanimously prevailed.

Bro. Hewitt moved that this Grange extend a rising vote of thanks to the Choir for their excellent music.

Motion prevailed.

Bro. Gunnison moved that Bro. Jason Woodman prepare a programme for this evening, after the exemplification of the unwritten work.

Motion carried.

Bro. Ramsdell moved that whenever demand occurs in resolutions submitted here we insert instead, request.

Carried.

Bro. Hewitt offered the following Resolution :

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be and they are hereby instructed to see that all motions and resolutions adopted by this Grange urging Legislation are properly presented and their passage urged upon the Legislature.

Resolution received and adopted.

A motion to take recess till eight o'clock, prevailed.

EVENING SESSION.

On re-assembling the Grange listened to an impressive exemplification of the unwritten work by Worthy Master Mars.

At a late hour after a song by the Choir, the sixteenth annual session of the Michigan State Grange closed in form.

J. T. COBB, *Secretary*.

PAGE WIRE



— ADDRESS —

J. WALLACE PAGE

ADRIAN, MICH.

SOME REASONS

Why Page's Coiled Spring, Steel Wire Fence is
the money men are

1. It needs but few posts.
2. It does not burn up.
3. It does not blow down.
4. It does not bank snow.
5. It does not break with frost.
6. It does not sag in summer.
7. It does not break under strain.
8. It does not injure stock.
9. It is the longest coming to rest.
10. It is the longest lived fence.
11. It is pig tight, bull strong.
12. It is just the fence for farmers who like to feel that their money is safe.
13. It is a SEAT, TIDY, CHEAP and put up on very short notice.

From J. T. Cobb, Sec'y of

To get posted about this new kind of fence, J. Wallace Page, in Adrian, the first with the proprietor saw several lines of fence talked with men who have had the fence in use at the farm is in its favor, as was it in his that I saw, I shall try for

Stoughton, January, 1891. J. T. COBB